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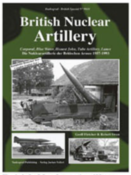

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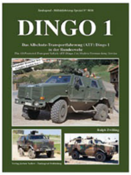

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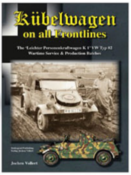

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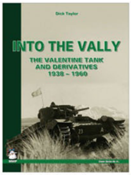

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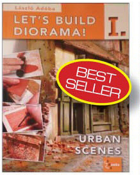

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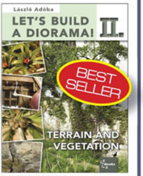

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Tel: (UK) 01525 222573
Fax: (UK) 01525 222574
Email: enquiries@modelmilitary.com
Address: ADH Publishing,
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Tel:01525 222573 Fax:01525 222574
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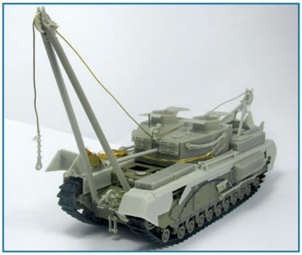
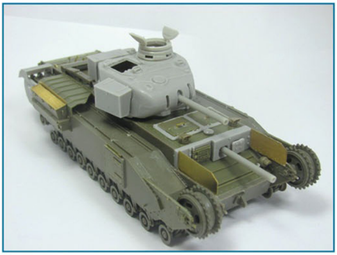
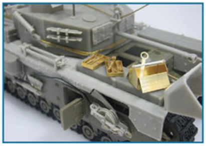




INSIDE THE ARMOUR
CHURCHILL CONVERSIONS

Inside the Armour keeps up its hectic schedule with two releases, both of which are available right now. First is Item No. 35051, a 1:35 scale Churchill ARV II conversion.

This is a comprehensive and sizeable conversion for any AFV Club Churchill kit.



It contains full internal winch gear and ARV fittings, driver's compartment interior, complete exterior conversion, brass cable, brass Besa gun and bonus PE tools and toolbox.

On-vehicle tool stowage can be depicted open or closed. The spade can be fitted stowed or deployed. Jibs can be stowed or deployed plus numerous other options

This kit is based on the Cromwell Models 1:35 scale ARV Mk.II with numerous parts remastered and retooled to change it to a conversion kit. Significant numbers of parts have been changed or added by Inside the Armour, including resin and the photo-etched parts.

Item No. 35054 is a 1:35 scale Churchill Mk. I CS conversion

This set contains all the parts in kit number 35042 plus an extra 3 inch howitzer barrel, breech and Pz. III cupola, allowing the modeller to depict any one of the 8 Churchill Mk. Is converted by the North Irish Horse for close support duties. Includes photo-etched parts

This kit is also based upon former Cromwell Models masters, retooled and enhanced with additional new parts by Inside the Armour.

More information, photos and pricing are available on Inside the Armour's website ***www.insidethearmour.com***

REVELL GERMANY ACQUIRED BY HOBBICO INC.

Hobbico, Inc. of Champaign, Illinois USA has acquired Revell Deutschland Holding GmbH.

Revell Germany was established in 1956 and is the European market leader in the plastic model segment. For the last four years, Revell has also been a key player in radio control vehicles in the European toy market. With several new product lines just announced at this year's Nuremberg Toy Fair, Revell has embarked on rapid expansion of their radio control products including a new series called tecZone which is targeted at the European hobby market.

Hobbico is the world's leading manufacturer and marketer of model hobby products, including radio controlled models, plastic model kits, flying model rockets and other hobby and toy products. The 100% employee-owned company sells products through several subsidiaries including Revell, Estes, Great Planes Model Distributors and Tower Hobbies. Since 2007, Hobbico has owned the U.S. Revell operation. Just prior in 2006, Revell Germany was spun off as a separate company.

After starting the original U.S. company in 1945, Revell founder Lou Glaser established the German operation in 1956. Since then, Revell Germany has been known as the European leader in plastic model kits as well as paints, tools and accessories. In 2008, the Revell Control line of radio controlled vehicles was introduced and successfully gained a strong position in the European toy market. In 2011, Revell introduced the award-winning Orbis children's air brush system.

Hobbico was started in 1986 through the combination of Tower Hobbies and Great Planes Model Distributors, founded in 1971 and 1973, respectively. In 2001, Hobbico acquired United Model, a leading hobby products distributor founded in 1959. Hobbico acquired the Revell-Monogram plastic model kit lines in 2007 and Estes-Cox in 2010. In January of this year, Hobbico announced the acquisition of three hobby R/C car brands: Axial, ARRMA and Team Durango.

"This acquisition bodes well for the UK market, as the UK operation is a Branch of Revell Germany" added Thomas Randrup, Country Manager of Revell UK & Ireland.

ACCURATE ARMOUR LAND ROVER WMIK UPGRADES AND CONVERSIONS

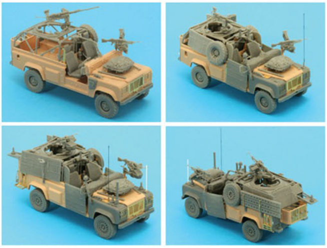
Accurate Armour has sent images of their new update sets for the 1:35 scale Hobby Boss Land Rover WMIK.

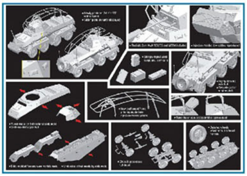
There are four sets to correct the faults and then take the kit from O-WMIK through to E-WMIK and finally R-WMIK:

- LRA001 O-WMIK 1997-2004
- LRA002 O-WMIK TES(T/H) 2005-2007
- LRA003 E-WMIK TES(T/H) 2007-2010
- LRA004 R-WMIK TES(T/H) 2008+

All are available now.

All the details and prices are on Accurate Armour's website ***www.accurate-armour.com***





ALL-NEW 1:72 SCALE SD.KFZ. 232 FROM DRAGON

Dragon has released a brand new 1:72 scale Sd.Kfz.232. This kit features all-new toolings, and the upper and lower hull sections are made as one-piece elements via slide moulds. The large armoured car is composed of many irregularly shaped and angled plates, so the kit obviously requires extremely precise tolerances when it fits together. Thanks to the use of CAD drawings and high-tech moulding techniques, the vehicle's parts should fit together flawlessly. The distinctive antenna frame is finely rendered. Dragon already has 1:72 scale Panzer III kits available, so the arrival of the Sd.Kfz.232 now gives these early-war Panzers a valuable reconnaissance capability!

Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited ***www.hobbyco.net***

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6493 **Pz. Kpfw. V Phanter Ausf. G** 1.35

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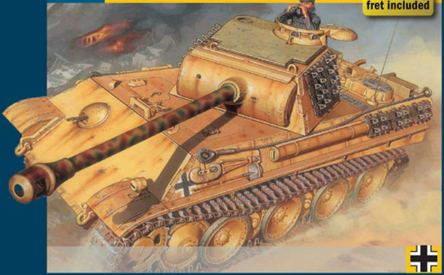

6491 **Sd. Kfz. 167 Sturmgeschütz IV** 1:35

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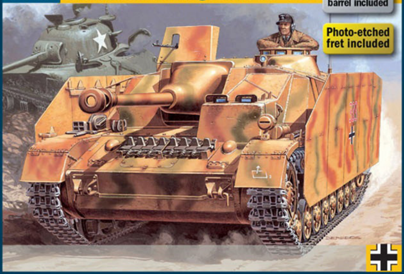
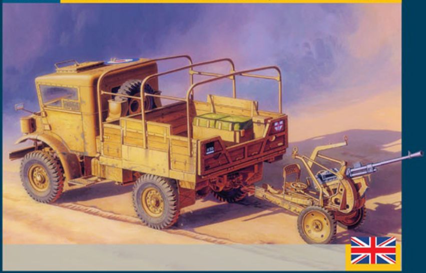
Photo-etched fret included



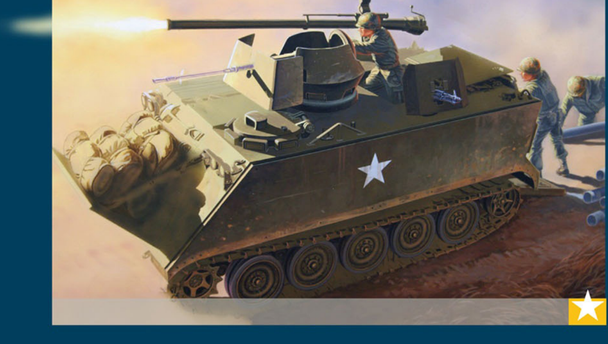
408 **Church window** 1:35

backagain

6505 **15 CWT truck with Breda 20/65** 1:35



6506 **M113 ACAV** 1:35



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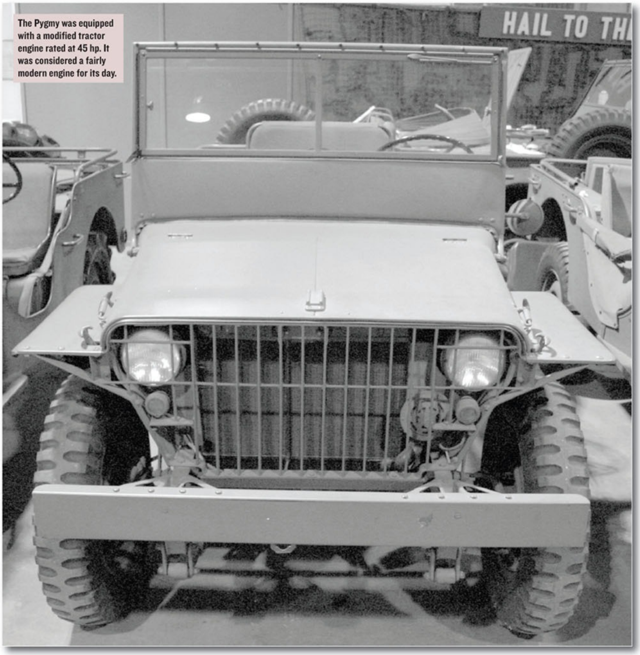

The Pygmy was equipped with a modified tractor engine rated at 45 hp. It was considered a fairly modern engine for its day.

The Ford GP being driven over a drivers' test course. This particular GP is one of the rare four-wheel steer jeeps. The cavalry favoured the mobility of the four wheel steer but it was rejected for mass production because of the increased need for constant velocity joints. Instead of two as required by a regular jeep, a four wheel steer required four.

THE 1941 FORD GP

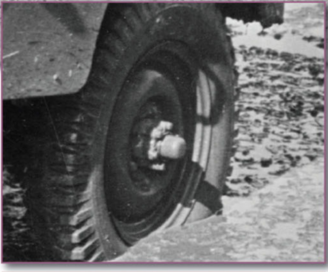
BY CAPT. ROBERT V. NOTMAN, USAF – RETIRED

Bob Notman continues his series on the workhorse of the US Army in WWII and beyond, the Jeep. In this installment, Bob examines the 1941 Ford GP.

Ford was the largest and most financially stable wartime producer of the jeep. Their production efforts began with the Ford GP Pygmy pilot model. The Pygmy was equipped with a modified tractor engine rated at 45 hp. It was considered a fairly modern engine for its day. Ford was selected along with the other two producers of the jeep (American Bantam Car Company and Willys-Overland) to build 1500 examples for further Army testing. The Ford GP was the pre-standardised production model built by Ford. Because the Willys vehicle was not ready for production in time, both Bantam and Ford built more than the original contracted 1,500. Bantam built approximately 2,600 Bantam BRCs and Ford built around 4,450 Ford GPs.

Ford built approximately 50 four-wheel steer GPs. These vehicles were favoured by the US Cavalry because of their ability to dart about. Perhaps this was a desire to have the same ability to turn as they did on horseback. At any rate, the US Quartermaster rejected the four-wheel steer jeeps from being as standard. The reason was two-fold. First, the vehicles were so mobile that there was concern that the average soldier would be unable to control it. Secondly, and perhaps more important, was the extra set of constant velocity joints needed for a four-wheel steer. The constant velocity joints allowed the front wheels and if so equipped the rear wheels to turn. Another reason for not producing the vehicle was the extra complication of adding the rear steering mechanism.

Finally, the US Quartermaster Corps let a bid for 16,000 jeeps in a winner-take-all contract. Willys submitted the lowest overall price. Initially Ford was awarded the contract by the Quartermaster but this was overruled by the Office of Production Management (OPM).



Close up of rear wheel shows that this is a steering axle. One of the few four wheel steer jeeps built by Ford.

There was a war going on. Soldiers were inexpensive and tools were expensive. Here, four soldiers serve as a jack and counterbalance while a fifth soldier changes the wheel. The photograph does demonstrate the relative light weight of the vehicle.

The Ford GP like the Willys MA and Bantam BRC could negotiate steep inclines.

The OPM forced the contract to be awarded to the low bidder—Willys. Ford was subsequently asked to produce the Willys version (which was known as the Ford GPW) and eventually produced over 250,000 jeeps by August 1945.

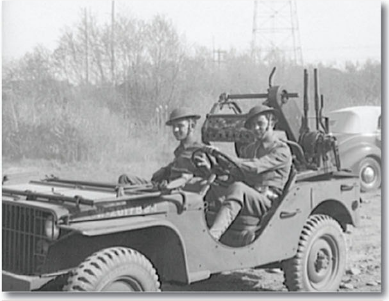
FORD GP AT THE VETERANS MEMORIAL MUSEUM OF HUNTSVILLE, AL.

On the several pages following are pictures of the Ford GP at the Veterans Memorial Museum of Huntsville, AL.

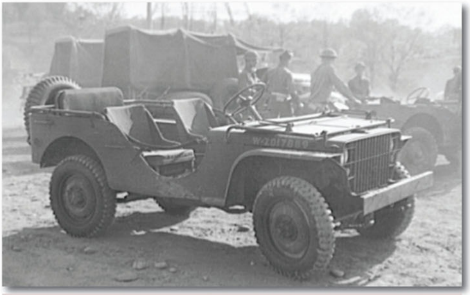
The Ford GP pictured in Figure 1 is a vehicle in the collection of the Veterans Memorial Museum of Huntsville, Alabama. The vehicle has frame serial number 9911 with a date of delivery of May 8, 1941. However, the engine is serial number 9309 and it has a Fifth echelon rebuild plate on it. The museum's theory is that Mr. Berg of Chicago, IL who would later become known as the "Jeep King" had replaced the engine. The story of this jeep perhaps starts in the Life magazine article dated January, 1944 with an article entitled, "First Civilians Buy Jeeps." Mayor Fred Heine from Lucas, Kansas went up to Chicago and purchased the surplus jeep for $750. It remained in the Heine family until the 1970s when it was purchased by a collector who tracked it down after reading the article. He had contacted directory assistance for the town mentioned in the article and learned that the son still lived there. The jeep was later sold to Ken Hake and he sold it to the Director of the museum where it is on display today.

For more information and photos concerning the pre-standardized jeeps (like the Ford GP, Bantam BRC and Willys MA) readers might like to read Pre-Standardized Jeep : Armor Walk Around Color, Series No. 11 by David Doyle or the author's Bantam, Ford, Willys 1/4-Ton Reconnaissance Cars. ■

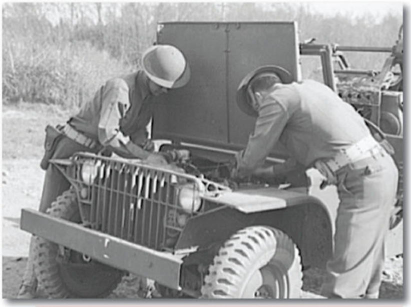
Think Tank - The 1941 Ford GP



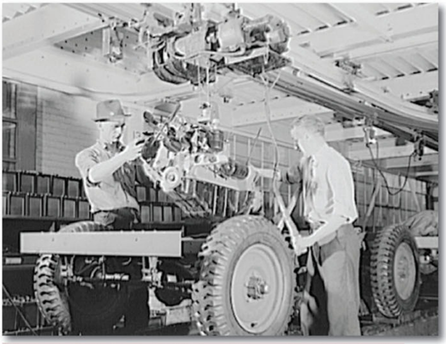
Original caption, "New 1/4-ton "bantam" truck being used for wire-laying during demonstration at Fort Myer, Virginia." Of course, this is an example of a Ford GP.



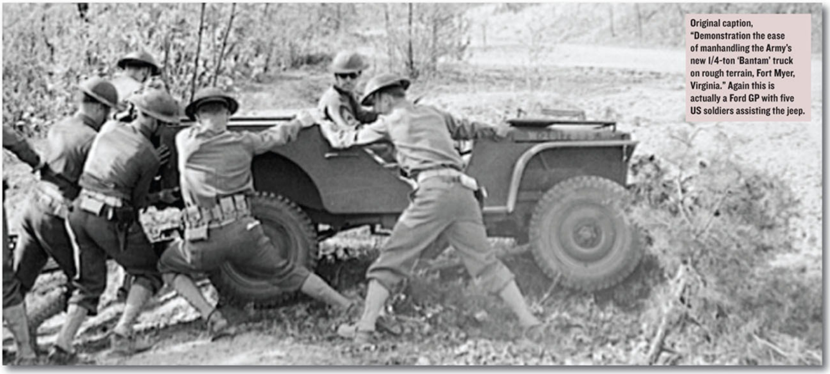
Original caption, "New 1/4-ton 'Bantam' truck at Fort Myer, Virginia," dated April, 1941. Writers were pretty loose during this time and used "Bantam" to frequently describe any 1/4-tonner. With three different 1/4-tons that were very similar in construction it is not difficult to understand the confusion on the part of writers, the public and even servicemen.



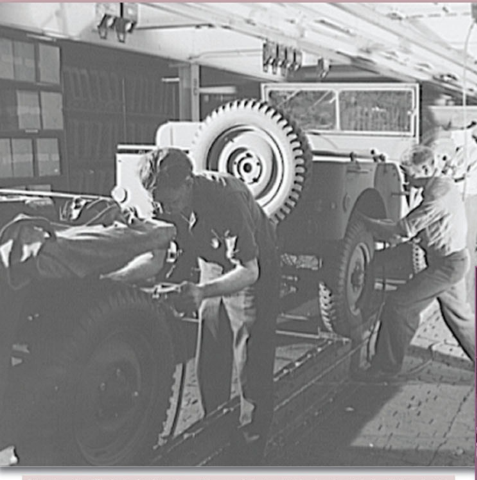
Original caption, "Soldier inspecting new bantam truck at Fort Myer, Virginia. This small light truck, known officially as the 'Truck 1/4-ton 4x4,' is a small, low-silhouette, narrow-tread, 4-wheel drive car without armour protection, which is designed to carry three men and their individual weapons. It can also be used as an ammunition carrier." From the grill design it is obviously a Ford GP.



Original caption, "Blitz buggies. This motor has just come off the conveyor line, and is being placed in the chassis. Ford River Rouge plant." May, 1941.

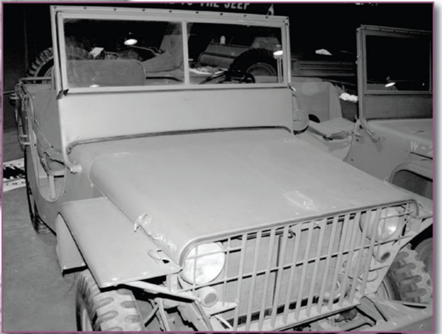


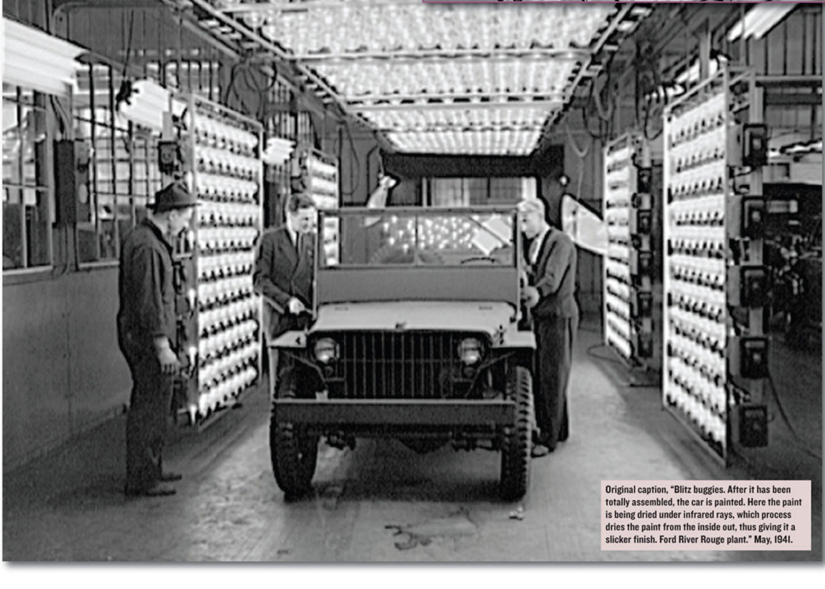
Original caption, "Demonstration the ease of manhandling the Army's new 1/4-ton 'Bantam' truck on rough terrain, Fort Myer, Virginia." Again this is actually a Ford GP with five US soldiers assisting the jeep.



Original caption, "The body after being lowered is securely fastened to the chassis and the headlights adjusted. Ford River Rouge plant." May, 1941.

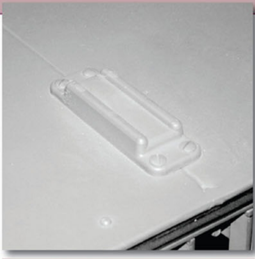
The Ford GP from the front right quarter. Note the difference in hood rubber between it and the later MB/GPW. The GP, follow on to the Ford pilot model (Pygmy) sports the basic grille design that was the predecessor to the final design that says "jeep".



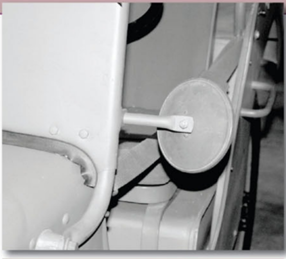


Original caption, "Blitz buggies. After it has been totally assembled, the car is painted. Here the paint is being dried under infrared rays, which process dries the paint from the inside out, thus giving it a slicker finish. Ford River Rouge plant." May, 1941.

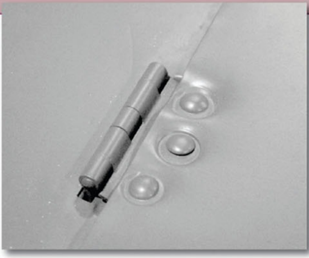
Think Tank - The 1941 Ford GP



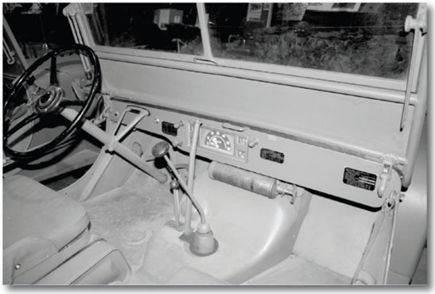
A close up of the single rubber rest for the windshield.



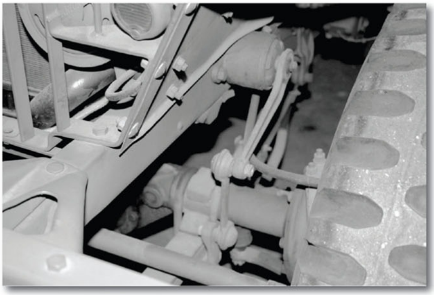
The GP's rear view mirror mounted to the windshield frame. Not one of Ford's better ideas, it did not allow the necessary flexibility of knocking about in the woods. It would not be retained in the MB/GPW design.



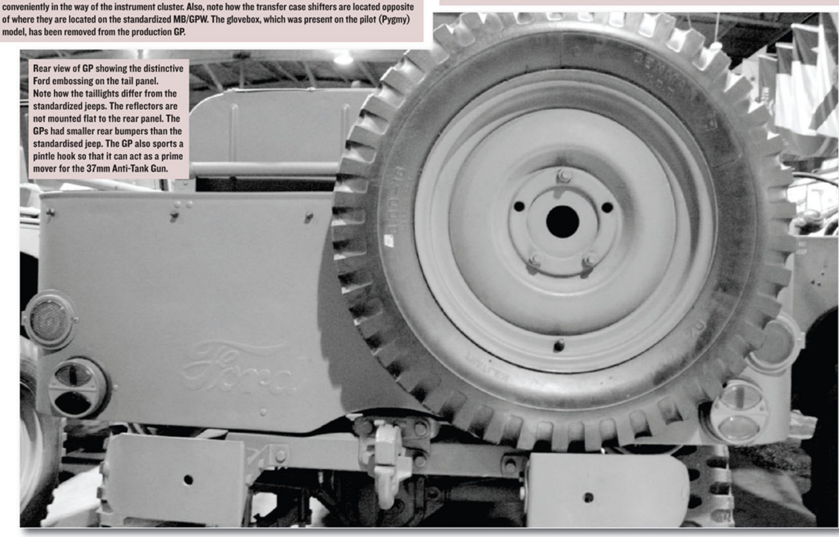
One of the two hood hinges on the GP. The hinge is riveted into place. This is perhaps a better design then what is on the standardized WW2 jeep (which is a single large hinge) which had a tendency to crack the hood from vibrations.



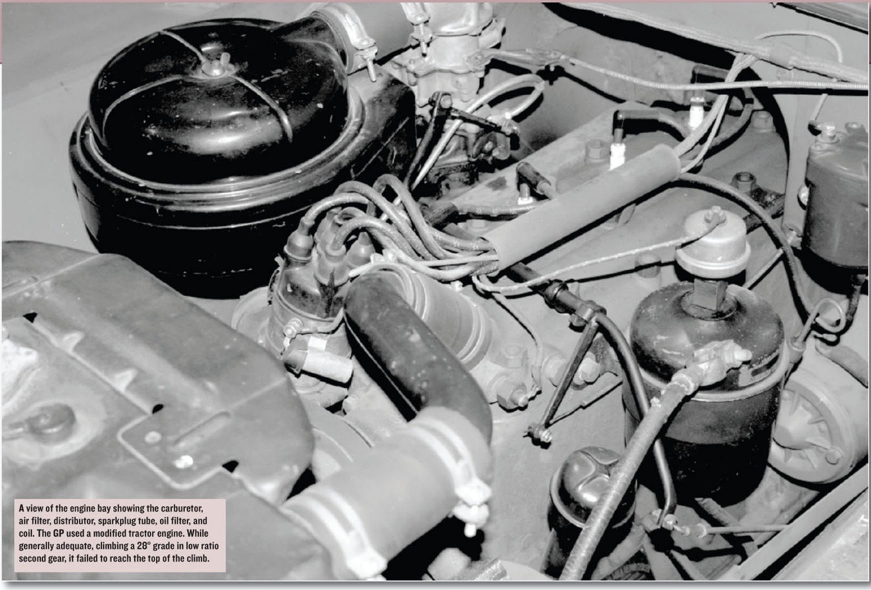
A look at the inside of the GP. Note the placement of the fire extinguisher under the dash. The handbrake is conveniently in the way of the instrument cluster. Also, note how the transfer case shifters are located opposite of where they are located on the standardized MB/GPW. The glovebox, which was present on the pilot (Pygmy) model, has been removed from the production GP.



A view of the shock absorber and linkage.



Rear view of GP showing the distinctive Ford embossing on the tail panel. Note how the taillights differ from the standardized jeeps. The reflectors are not mounted flat to the rear panel. The GPs had smaller rear bumpers than the standardised jeep. The GP also sports a pintle hook so that it can act as a prime mover for the 37mm Anti-Tank Gun.



A view of the engine bay showing the carburetor, air filter, distributor, sparkplug tube, oil filter, and coil. The GP used a modified tractor engine. While generally adequate, climbing a 28° grade in low ratio second gear, it failed to reach the top of the climb.

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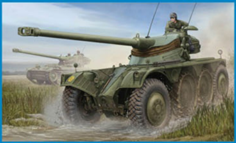

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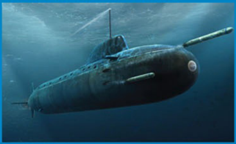
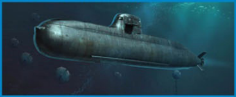
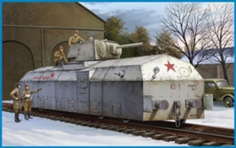


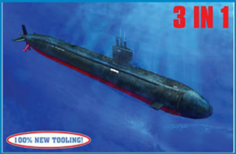
HBB83526 1:350 Russian Navy Yasen Class SSN



HBB83527 1:350 German Navy Type 212 Attack Submarine



HBB82912 1:72 Soviet Armoured Train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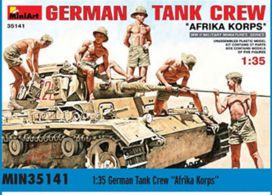
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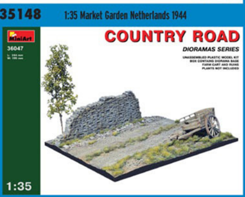
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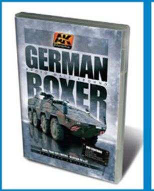
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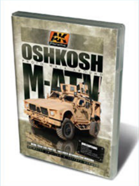
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LONG MARCH EAST

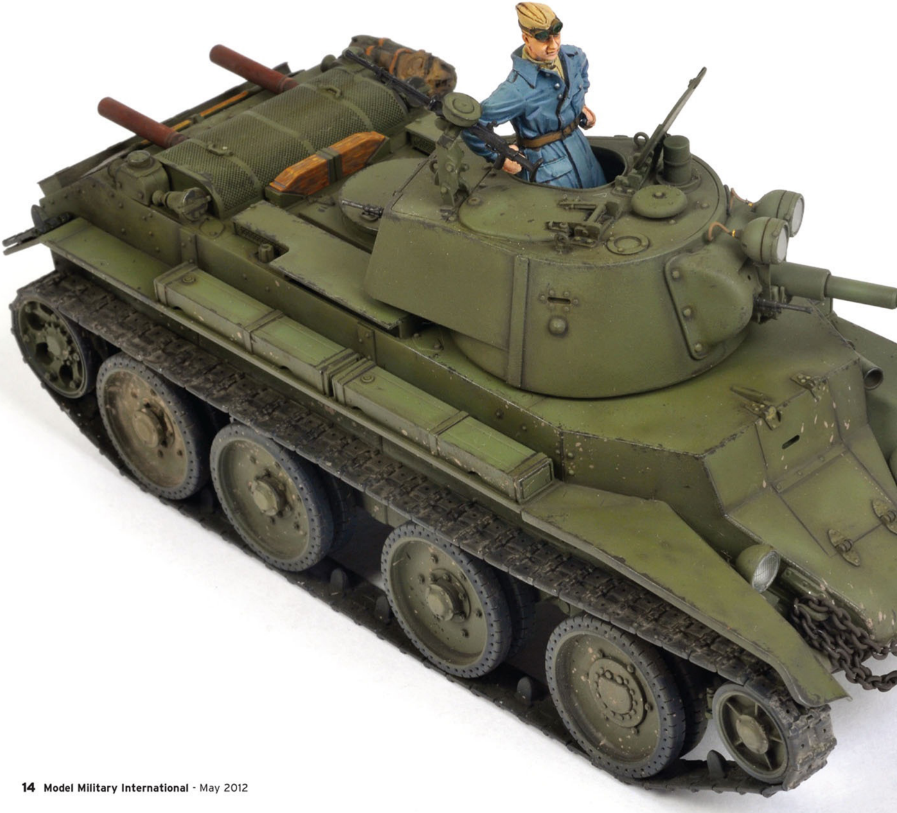
Brett Green converts Tamiya's 1:35 scale BT-7 to the later Model 1937 variant using Rhino Armour Models' resin conversion.

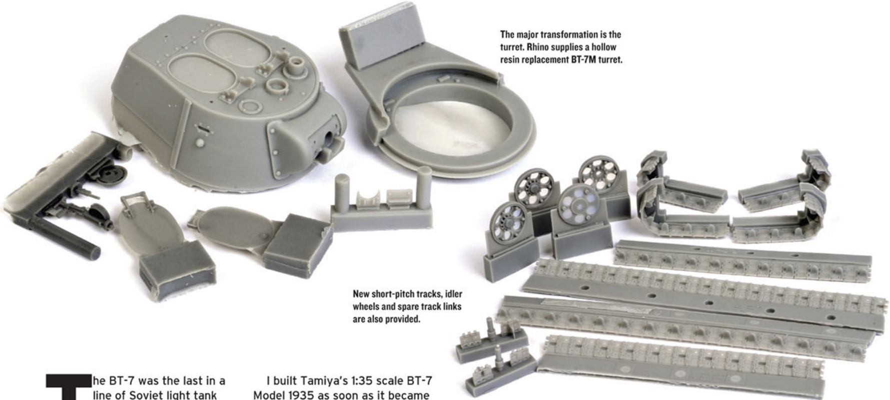
RUSSIAN TANK
BT-7
MODEL 1935
TAMIYA

Tamiya's 1:35 scale BT-7 represents the early Model 1935.

RHINO
RAM 35003
722
Soviet BT-7M 1937 Model Conversion
1:35 Scale
Designed for the Tamiya kit
Masks included for 4 options and a 5th colour scheme is shown that requires no markings.
Contains small parts, not for children.

Rhino Armour Models was quick off the mark releasing a BT-7M Model 1937 in late 2010.





The major transformation is the turret. Rhino supplies a hollow resin replacement BT-7M turret.

New short-pitch tracks, idler wheels and spare track links are also provided.

The BT-7 was the last in a line of Soviet light tank designs using steerable Christie suspension. It was fast, highly manoeuvrable and adequately armed compared to its late-1930s contemporaries. Along with the T-26 and BT-5, the BT-7 bore the brunt of the massive German invasion of June 1941. 2,000 BT-7 tanks were destroyed, abandoned or captured in the months following the launch of Operation Barbarossa.

Although it was increasingly replaced by the T-34 from 1941 onwards, the BT-7 served right up until the end of the Great Patriotic War in 1945. More than 9,000 BT-7 tanks of all types were produced between 1935 and 1940.

I built Tamiya's 1:35 scale BT-7 Model 1935 as soon as it became available in 2010. It was such a rewarding experience that I have wanted to build another one ever since.

Before the end of 2010, Rhino Armour Products released two interesting conversions for the Tamiya kit – a BT-7M Model 1937, and a BT-5.

The BT-5 is the more comprehensive conversion of the pair, supplying a brand new hull in addition to all the detail parts required for this immediate ancestor of the BT-7.

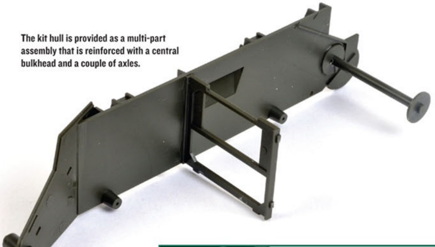
The BT-7M is a smaller conversion but still impressive. Paradoxically, although there were fewer parts, I think that the new slope-sided turret and short-pitch track links have a bigger visual impact than the different hull of the BT-5. I also prefer the smoother lines of the BT-7 Model 1937, hinting at the evolution of Soviet tank design towards the outstanding T-34.

Although a BT-5 had long been on my "to build" list, I therefore decided to tackle the streamlined BT-7M Model 1937 this time.

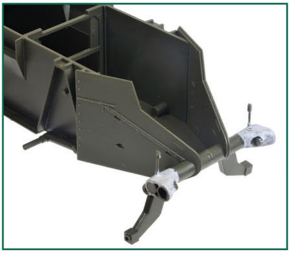
TAMIYA'S 1:35 SCALE BT-7 – WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

Tamiya's 1:35 scale BT-7 Model 1935 represents the early version, which may be identified by its straight-sided turret with two rectangular hatches. The kit comprises more than 190 parts in dark green coloured plastic, 16 parts in grey plastic, eight parts in clear, a nickel plated photo-etched fret, a length of chain, a bag of polythene caps and markings for four vehicles.

Exterior detail is excellent. Suspension and running gear is very well represented, while the hull features appropriately raised rivets. ▶



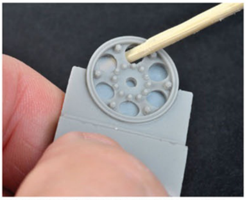
The kit hull is provided as a multi-part assembly that is reinforced with a central bulkhead and a couple of axles.



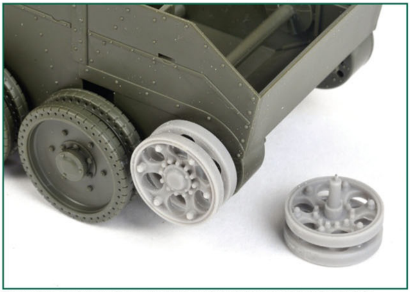
The hull is a double-skinned affair with the suspension mounted between the inner and outer layers.

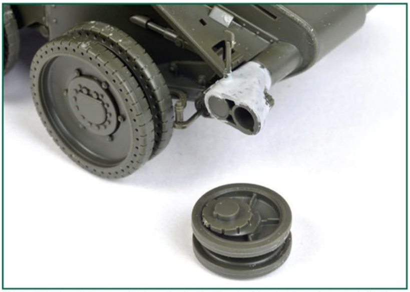
The fit is very good, but you do need to take care to get everything aligned properly, especially when attaching the sides of the nose to the inner hull halves.

The wheels are secured using polythene caps.


The easiest way to deal with the thin membrane of resin in the drive sprocket lightening holes is by poking it out with toothpick.

Rhino supplies a new mounting pin in resin, reinforced with metal wire.


The new drive sprockets simply press into the kit-supplied polythene cap inside the locating hole.


The track tensioning idler mount has been glued to the idler wheel, but do not attach it to the hull yet!

A photo-etched fret includes the large mesh for the radiator grille and narrow vents for the engine deck. The mesh parts are beautifully presented with an impressive three-dimensional weave effect.

In common with most of their recent releases, Tamiya has included a clear sprue for the BT-7. This contains not only headlight lenses, but also a clear vision block for the driver's hatch and goggles for the two crew members.

The lower hull is supplied as a "flat pack", with separate parts for the hull sides, floor, rear hull and nose. This parts breakdown is necessary to authentically reproduce the characteristic inner and outer hull construction of the Christie tank design. Assembly jigs are provided for the road wheels and for the photo-etched mesh on the engine deck.

Options include poseable hatches for the turret crew and the driver, and a large turret antenna for the Command Vehicle version.

Tracks are supplied as link and length, representing the early long-pitch style. This is the same style of track that was fitted to the BT-5.

Moulding quality is excellent as usual, but the inside surfaces of the tracks and the hatches are marred by visible ejector pin circles. It is worth considering that these circles are one of the reasons that Tamiya kits fit together so flawlessly, but they do require extra time for filling and sanding.

RHINO MODELS' BT-7M MODEL 1937 CONVERSION

The Rhino Armour Products brand is owned by A2Zee Models.

Rhino's 1:35 scale BT-7 Model 1937 conversion, Item No. RAM 35003, is made up from 28 resin pieces and features a new turret with sloping armour plus short-pitched tracks that were typically fitted to this late version.

The turret is hollow and split in the upper section and the base. The mantlet is fixed at fractionally below 90 degrees, but the hatches are separate and may be posed open for the inclusion of figures if desired. A 7.62 mm DT-5 light machine gun is provided for the rear of the turret, including the inside half of the gun and the circular magazine.

The tracks are cleverly supplied as straight lengths for the upper and lower runs, and curved sections that will fit around the new resin drive sprockets and the kit idler wheels. The track lengths are attached to casting strips. The side to be removed from the casting strips faces inboard on the finished model. Four spare links are offered for the rear mudguards too.

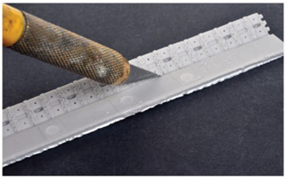
The casting of all the parts is perfect in my sample.

Masks are included for four marking options.

LET'S BUILD A BOX

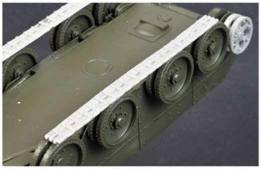
I followed Tamiya's kit instructions for building the multi-part hull and the road wheels. Rhino supplies new resin drive sprockets to suit the later-style short-pitch tracks. These are a press-fit replacement for the kit's plastic sprockets.

At this point, Tamiya's instructions would have you glue the track-tensioning idler mounts (parts A-13) to the model. Don't do this yet. Instead, I recommend that you glue the mounts to the wheels but not attach the mount/idler sub-assemblies to the hull. Store them

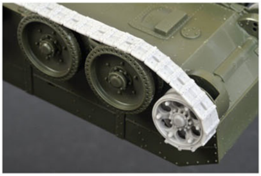

The casting strips for the straight track sections were easily dispatched using a new hobby blade.

My photo-etched JLC Razor Saw was the perfect tool for freeing the curved track sections from their strips. Although the saw is beaten up and broken in places, it still works a treat.

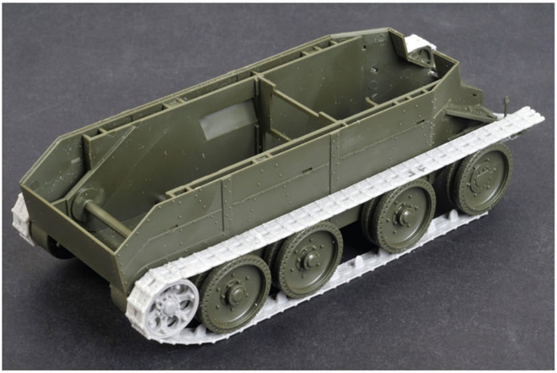
One side of the tracks ready to be fitted.



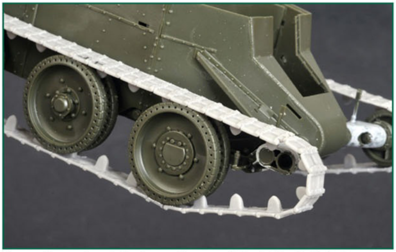
The first step is to glue the bottom run to the bottom of the road wheels.



Next, the curved rear section is meshed with the teeth at the back of the bottom run, then glued to the resin drive sprocket.

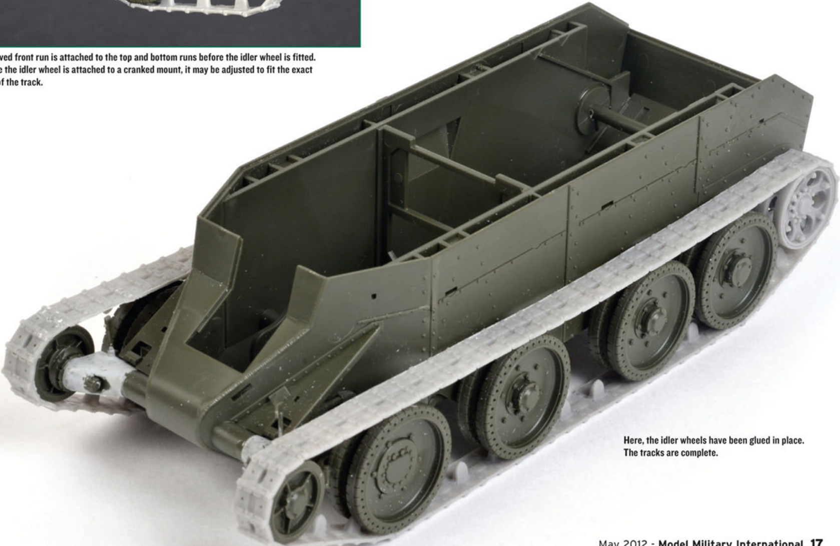


The top run is next. This has been glued to the top of the two middle road wheels, permitting a little drape along the run.



The curved front run is attached to the top and bottom runs before the idler wheel is fitted. Because the idler wheel is attached to a cranked mount, it may be adjusted to fit the exact length of the track.

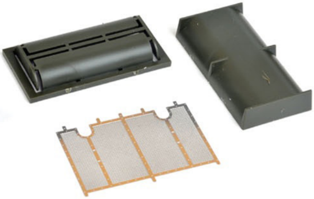
> **"Rhino's tracks do not suffer from the ejector pin marks found on the inner surfaces of the kit links..."**



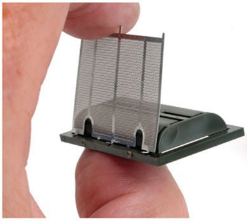
Here, the idler wheels have been glued in place. The tracks are complete.

A few small details on the top of Tamiya's hull are not required on the Model 1937. These were cut off with a pair of sprue cutters and a sharp knife.

The exhaust pipes snake through the openings in the photo-etched grille. You want to get this angle correct, or life will be difficult in later assembly.

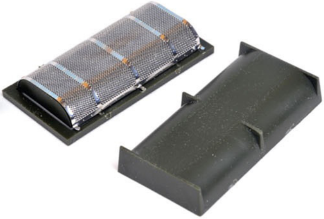


The photo-etched radiator mesh comes with a plastic jig to form it into the correct shape.



First the edge of the mesh is slotted into the side of the bottom of the jig, and folded over the curved plastic.

The top is then pressed firmly over the etched metal mesh.



When the top of the jig is removed, voila! Instant curved mesh!

in a safe place and fit them later, in conjunction with the tracks.

The only modification needed for the upper hull is to remove a few mounts not relevant to the later BT-7M. These were cut off before the top hull was installed. The scars were filled with Tamiya Surfacer then sanded smooth.

Tamiya's clever jig was used to form the photo-etched mesh, which was then fitted to the engine deck. I found that the fit of the upper hull was a little tight at the front, but a couple of pieces of Tamiya tape attached while the glue set was enough to address this issue.

PERFECT PITCH

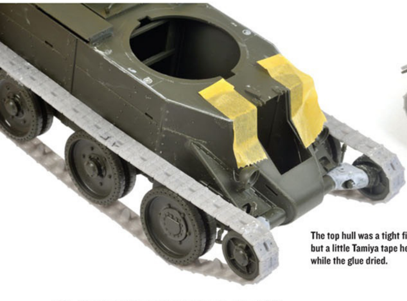
Tamiya's injection-moulded link and length tracks are great, but they are the early long-pitch version while the Model 1937 was shod with the later short-pitch links.

Fortunately, Rhino includes these late version tracks in their conversion, and they are just as easy to install as Tamiya's. A welcome bonus is that the Rhino tracks do not suffer from the ejector pin marks found on the inner surfaces of the kit tracks.

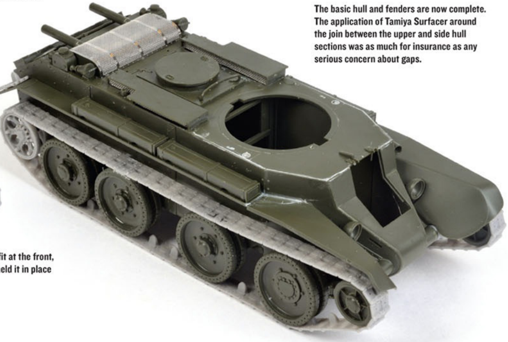
Rhino's resin tracks are cast in four sections for each side - top and bottom runs, plus curved end runs that wrap around the drive sprocket and idler wheel. The tracks are handed, so the edge where the casting strip has been removed faces the hidden inside on both sides of the vehicle.

The casting strips are pretty easy to deal with. I simply ran a new blade along the top and bottom runs, scoring the line until the tracks were freed. For the curved runs, I used my JLC Razor Saw to excise the strips.

The mesh and its plastic frame (cut from the jig) are held in place while the glue sets.

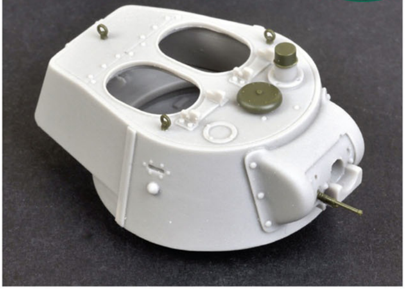


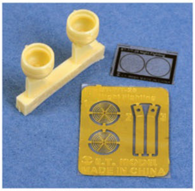
The top hull was a tight fit at the front, but a little Tamiya tape held it in place while the glue dried.

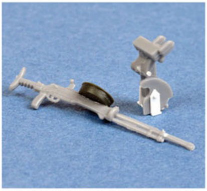


The basic hull and fenders are now complete. The application of Tamiya Surfacer around the join between the upper and side hull sections was as much for insurance as any serious concern about gaps.

I replaced the kit barrel with the gorgeous turned metal item from Aber. The end of the barrel is actually rifled.


The resin upper and lower hull halves joined. A number of Tamiya's parts are used to populate the top of the turret.


To lend even more character, I decided to use E.T. Models' BT-7 / T-26 Night Fighting lights. These comprise resin light housings, photo-etched mounts and clear acetate lenses.


A DT-5 anti-aircraft gun and mount were borrowed from Zvezda's late-model BT-7. The gun was fitted with Tamiya's circular magazine, while the mount was detailed with plastic strip and punched bolt heads.

I started installation by gluing the bottom runs (the shorter of the two straight sections) to the road wheels. I took some extra time to make sure that I had the left tracks on the left side and the right tracks on the right side.

Next, the curved rear section was fitted to the drive sprocket, making sure that the teeth meshed perfectly between the two track sections.

The third task was to install the top run. This was glued to the front of the curved section. A spot of super glue was also applied to the tops of the two middle road wheels.

The final crucial step is fitting the front curved section and the idler wheel. You will recall earlier that we fitted the tension-adjusting mounts to the idler wheels but we did not fix them to the hull. This is where our forward planning pays dividends.

I test fitted the forward track section and the idler wheel a number of times before committing to glue, experimenting with different positions. There is no potential to adjust the length of the resin tracks, so all of the fine-tuning will be to the final position of the idler wheel – just like on the real tank. I found that it was possible to glue the front track section to the upper and the lower track runs without fitting the idler wheel. Once the tracks had set, the idler wheel was then wiggled into place and rotated until a gap free fit was achieved. It was then glued to the hull. A few spots of super glue made sure there were no gaps between the idler wheel and the tracks too.

The entire preparation and assembly of both tracks only took a couple of hours.

TRADING UP

The most obvious change wrought by this conversion is the turret. The upper and lower halves each have a chunky casting block that needs to be removed. I started by cutting the biggest sections off with a pair of side cutters, then cleaned up with a sharp hobby knife. With these out of the way, the upper and lower halves fitted perfectly.

I did not bother to install the inside portions of the 40 mm main gun nor the 7.62 DT-5 machine guns as the Commander figure would effectively plug the hatch opening, so the kit seats were fitted to the turret ring and the halves were joined with super glue.

Assembling the Rhino turret was actually faster than building Tamiya's kit turret.

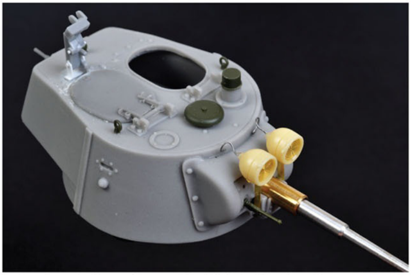
EXTRAS

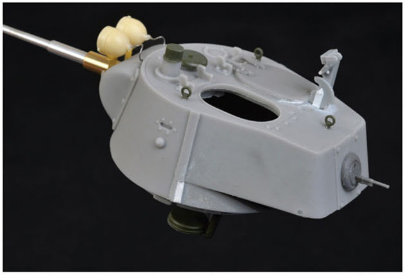
I thought that I would make a few additions to the turret to lend even more individual character to my model. I found a set of night-fighting lights online from E.T. Model, and while I was at it I also bought the Aber turned metal gun barrel.

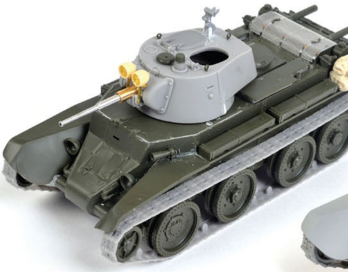
Aber's rifled metal barrel is a real beauty. It is provided in two telescoping sections and is a drop fit replacement for Tamiya's plastic counterpart. For Rhino's turret, the hole behind the mantlet was drilled out to accept the rear section of the barrel. The fit in the resin mantlet was so tight that adhesive would not really have been required, although I did add a drop of super glue as insurance.

The resin and photo-etched night fighting lights were nice too. The photo-etched grilles were fitted inside the resin housings, but the clear acetate lenses were left off until after painting. I added electrical wiring from fine fuse wire between the top of the mantlet and the rear of each light housing. Wiring was also added to the back of the horn, and the headlights.

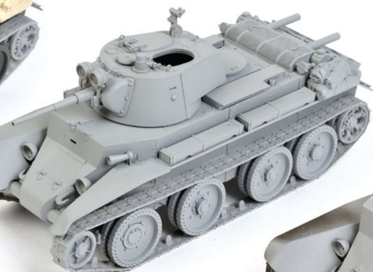
I liked the look of the anti-aircraft machine gun fitting seen on top of the turret in some photographs. Once upon a time ▶


Fine fuse wire was fitted between the turret and the night fighting lights. The machine gun mount location was guesstimated behind the loader's hatch.


I accidentally cut off part of the port side turret strip when I was removing the turret casting blocks. This was restored using Milliput white two-part epoxy putty.

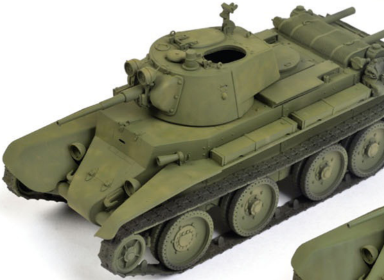


Within two days, the model was complete and ready for paint. Note the stowage on the rear portside track guard, dragged up from the murky recesses of my accessories drawer.

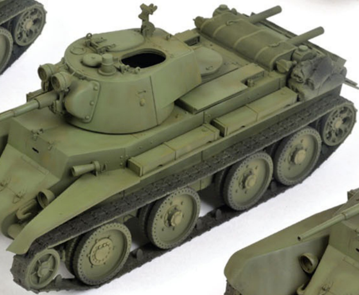


A coat of Tamiya Grey Primer straight from the can revealed a couple of tiny gaps that needed filling with Tamiya Surfacer.

The tracks, tyres, exhausts and the interior were sprayed with a dark mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown.

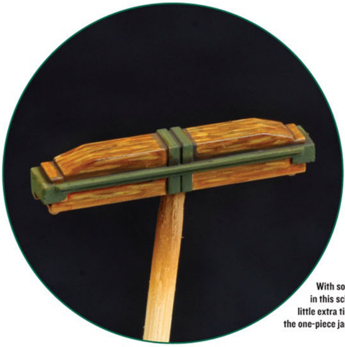


The Soviet 4BO camouflage base coat was a mix of around 85% Tamiya XF-67 NATO Green and 15% XF-59 Dark Yellow. A higher percentage of Dark Yellow was added to the base colour, which was sprayed in mottles and patches to break up the uniform green.

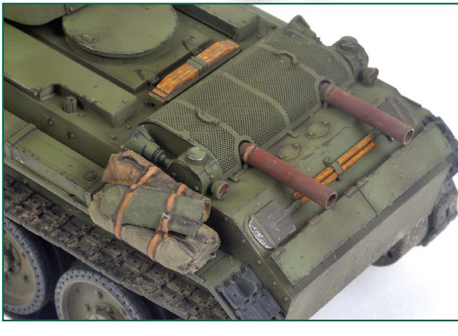


I didn't like the yellowish tint of the disruptive shade so I resprayed with the base colour and a paler shade, this time lightened with XF-71 Cockpit Green (IJN).

Sin Industries' Brown Filter was followed by a selective application of MIG Productions' Green Wash, particularly around bolt heads, hinges and other raised detail.



With so little variation in this scheme, I spent a little extra time painting up the one-piece jack block.



The exhaust pipes were treated to a wet application of MIG Productions' Rust pigment.

I had a very nice white metal DT-5 machine gun produced by Model Kasten, but Murphy's Law ensured that I could not find it for this project. Instead, I raided the contents of an old Eastern Express BT-7 for its DT-5 gun and mount. The DT-5 was actually pretty good but the mount was a bit crude and simplified. The mount was detailed with punched bolt heads and extra details cut from scrap plastic.

The reference photos were all at a low angle so I could not see the specifics of where the mount was attached to the turret. I know that late Model 1935s had a round cupola on the loader's side, and that a machine gun mount could be fitted to a ring, but I was not sure about the specifics of the Model 1937. In the end, I took a punt and glued the mount just aft of the loader's hatch.

The only other addition was a chunk of resin stowage retrieved from an old bag of accessories that had literally been gathering dust for years at the side of my modelling desk. This was glued to the back track guard.

LESS IS MORE

I am always tempted by schemes that feature interesting national markings or slogans. Rhino supplies four nice marking options on their masking sheet, so there was no excuse not to have a lively looking subject.

However, reference photos suggest that the majority of BT-7s wore no markings whatsoever. Basic 4BO Green seemed to be the norm. I therefore decided to take on the challenge of creating a lively looking scheme of unadorned overall 4BO Green.

The paint job started with a 50/50 mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown sprayed onto the tracks, the tyres, the exhausts and the interior.

The base colour for my model was a blend of around 85% Tamiya XF-67 NATO Green and 15% XF-60 Dark Yellow. The green coat was sprayed over most of the model, only avoiding the previously painted black tracks and tyres. Precision is not essential here though, as we will be going over these areas again in the near future. The large expanse of green was broken up with a paler shade of the same colour using a higher proportion of XF-60 Dark Yellow. In the end, I did not like this paler shade as I thought it just looked dirty. I therefore mixed up a new formula for the disruptive shade, lightening the base colour with Tamiya XF-71 Cockpit Green (IJN)

Now the tyres, tracks, exhausts and machine gun barrels were brush painted with the black-brown mix. This is really only touching up the earlier airbrushed pre-shading.

Sin Industries' Brown Filter was applied to the whole vehicle with a wide soft brush.

This was followed by a selective application of MIG Productions' Green Wash, particularly around bolt heads, hinges and other raised detail. After it had dried, I noticed that this wash had left tidemarks on the matt paint. These were eliminated by brushing clean mineral turpentine over the marks.

I then airbrushed a heavily thinned mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown along key structural features, in crevices and corners, and in a few spots and mottles.

Next, I dabbed a dark brown/black acrylic blend onto the edges of the hull, turret and fenders with a sponge. This mix was further thinned with water and applied with a fine brush along selected features including the borders of the mantlet and hatches, prominent bolt heads and hinges.

I sprayed a very fine layer of dust over the wheels and lower hull. A few drops of Tamiya XF-57 Buff were loaded into a half a paint cup of thinners, then this thin mix was sprayed in several coats until it had built up to the desired effect.

I have read a lot recently about the random application of wet pigments blown onto the model with an empty airbrush so I decided to try this myself.

With this subtle dust layer as a base, I mixed up my favourite pigment slurry – MIG Productions Rubble Dust and water – and loaded up an old paintbrush. I held the wet brush between the lower hull of the model and my airbrush and pushed the trigger. Sure enough, spots of muddy pigments spattered randomly onto the wheels and lower hull of the model. At this stage I turned the model upside down so that the airflow was angled up and back toward the bottom of the hull and the mudguards. The result was a pleasingly directional yet still quite random spatter on the mudguards and front of the hull.

FINISHING TOUCHES

The inside of the headlights were painted silver, and the lenses secured with Gator's Glue. Alignment was easy thanks to a positive locating tab at the bottom of the lenses.

The night fighting light lenses were punched from their clear acetate sheet using my new UMM-USA Punch Set Max. This is a larger version of the Waldron or Historex punches that modellers may be more familiar with, and it worked perfectly. This should be

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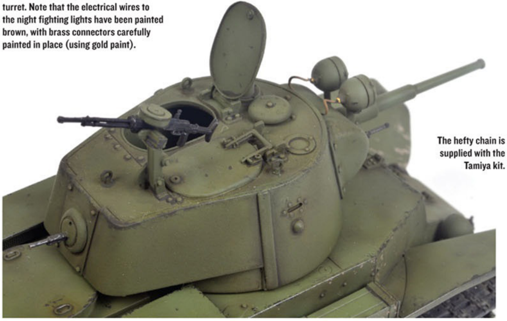


The DT-5 machine gun was fitted to the turret. Note that the electrical wires to the night fighting lights have been painted brown, with brass connectors carefully painted in place (using gold paint).

The hefty chain is supplied with the Tamiya kit.

a very handy tool when scratch building in future.

The exhausts were brushed with a wet mix of Mig Productions' "Standard Rust" and "Fresh Rust" pigments.

I spent a bit of extra time hand painting wood grain texture on the jack block, although in the end I think the result is a bit cartoonish.

Electrical wiring was painted brown, and a brass connector was carefully painted onto the back of each night fighting light housing (using Vallejo Gold paint – stands out better than brass paint).

The entire model received a couple of thin coats of Testor's Flat Clear Lacquer, although I was careful to avoid some of the mud spatters on the fenders and forward hull.

Mig Productions' Rubble Dust P234 was lightly brushed onto the tracks then scrubbed off when dry for a dusty residue.

Finally, the metal chain was sprayed a dark brown-black colour, cut to length and draped between the front towing hooks.

COMMANDER

The tanker figure is from Alpine Miniatures Item No. 35014 – Russian Tank Crew Set – 1943-45. Casting quality is perfect and the pose quite natural. The figure comes with alternative heads – one with a side cap and goggles, and one with the padded tanker's helmet.

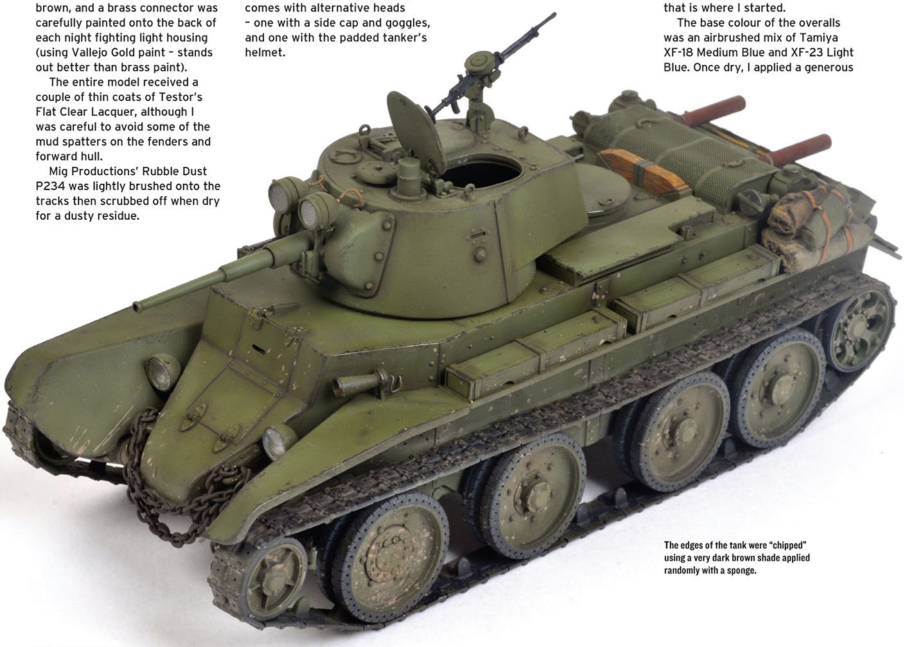
Cleanup and assembly was fast but I left the heads off, as I hadn't decided which I would use. I preferred the side cap and goggles, but I would wait and see which one looked better after painting.

Figure painting has never come easily to me. Eyes in particular are my Achilles Heel, if you'll pardon my anatomical dyslexia.

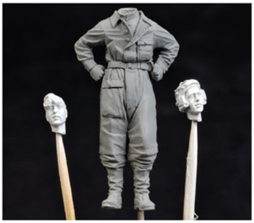
I usually paint one eye that looks okay, then the second one winds up looking like the ruined eye of a scary doll. Perhaps I should only paint figures that have an eye patch, or that are using a telescope, or are winking, or who are undertaking eye tests.

Anyway, for some reason I seem to have better luck with the blue-grey Soviet tanker's overalls so that is where I started.

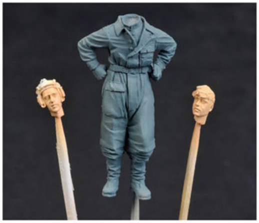
The base colour of the overalls was an airbrushed mix of Tamiya XF-18 Medium Blue and XF-23 Light Blue. Once dry, I applied a generous



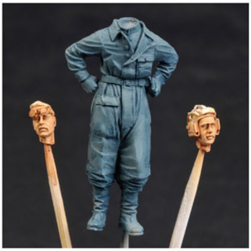
The edges of the tank were "chipped" using a very dark brown shade applied randomly with a sponge.



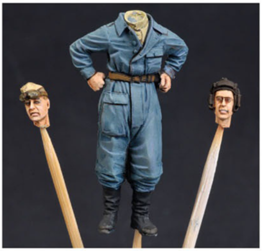
The crew figure would be helpful to add some colour variation. This Soviet crewman is from Alpine Miniatures Item No. 35014 – Russian Tank Crew Set – 1943-45. Here, the body has been primed with Tamiya Grey primer, with the heads primed in White.



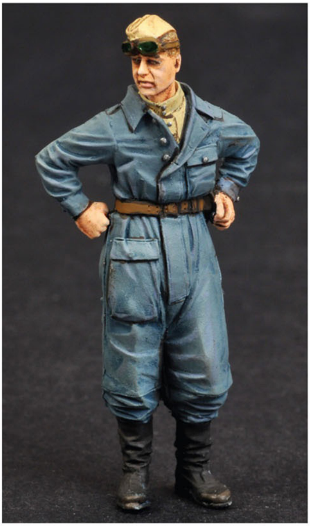
The base colour for the overalls is a mix of Tamiya XF-18 Medium Blue and XF-23 Light Blue. The face colour is Tamiya XF-15 Flat Flesh.



The heads have received a couple of coats of Sin Industries Brown Filter for Dark Yellow (Item No. P241); while the overalls have been washed with P240 Blue Filter for Panzer Grey.



Details have now been picked out with a fine brush and Vallejo acrylics. Alpine supplies two heads. I always liked the one with the cap but I thought I'd paint both as an each-way bet!



The completed figure works as a standalone item…

> **"The tanker figure is from Alpine Miniatures. Casting quality is perfect and the pose quite natural…"**

wash of Sin Industries' Blue Filter for Panzer Grey (P240) to provide shadows in recesses and folds. Highlights were brush-painted using a paler shade of the base colour.

Details such as the khaki shirt, the belt, boots, holster and buttons were picked out with Vallejo acrylic paints and a fine brush. The key edges – top and bottom of the belt, the collar, cuffs, epaulets etc – were thinly outlined in a 50/50 mix of Vallejo 337 Highlight German Black and 950 Black.

The heads were sprayed with Tamiya Fine White Primer straight from the can, followed by a coat of Tamiya XF-15 Flat Flesh. Both heads now received a wash of Sin Industries' Brown Filter for Dark Yellow P241. When I am really lucky, this reddish-brown wash runs into the eyes, mouth, ears and beside the nose; and nothing much else is required other than emphasising some of the details. However, I was not lucky this time.

I used a 10/0 brush and thinned Vallejo 337 Highlight German Black to paint in the mouth and the general eye detail. I decided I couldn't really get away with leaving the eyes like that, so I added a tiny spot of white near the edges. True to form, the first one looked pretty good, but the second eye was the wide, wild, destroyed and gaping stuff of nightmares. I just kept repainting until I had a result that I could live with. He now looks a bit like Bela Lugosi in Dracula makeup, but it could be worse.

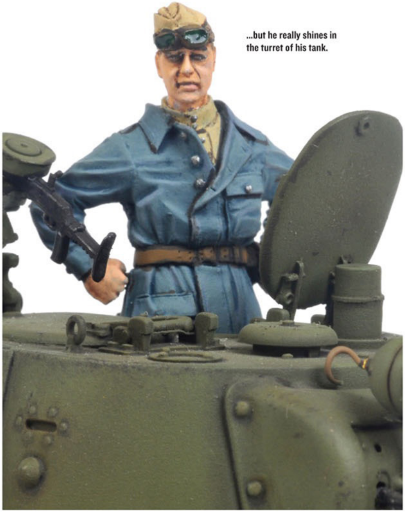
Facial highlights including the front of the nose, the tip of the chin, the cheekbone area and the edges of the ears were painted with Vallejo 815 Basic Skin Tone, and a lightened shade of the same colour.

Headgear was also picked out with Vallejo acrylics.

The painted heads and body were sprayed with a final coat of Testor's Flat Clear Lacquer. The lenses of the goggles were then painted Tamiya X-25 Clear Green, followed by a coat of Future floor polish.

In the end, I thought that the head with the side cap looked okay, so it was fixed to the body using super glue.

The figure fitted perfectly in the Commander's hatch. The pose was quite adaptable too. He looks equally at ease leaning back against the rear edge of the hatch, or craning forward as he peers over the side. ▶



…but he really shines in the turret of his tank.

CONCLUSION

Tamiya's 1:35 scale BT-7 Model 1935 is a really lovely model. The availability of Rhino's BT-5 and BT-7M conversions only increases its appeal and versatility.

I was very impressed with the quality and ease of Rhino's resin conversion. This would be an appropriate starting point for a modeller with a few kits under their belt who wanted to try their first resin conversion project.

The absence of markings and stowage also focused attention on painting and weathering the overall 4BO Green camouflage. This was the perfect opportunity to test out a few new techniques such as mud spatters via the airbrush.

I reckon that my BT-5 project has moved a bit closer to the top of the pile now, maybe with some of those colourful Spanish Civil War turret bands... ■

Modelspec

Tamiya 1:35 BT-7 Model 1935. Kit No. 35309
Rhino Armour Models BT-7M Model 1937 Conversion. Item No. RAM35003

Accessories:

Aber Item No. 35L-112 – Soviet 45mm 20K Tank Barrel for BT-7 Model 1934
E.T. Model Item No. EA35-039 – WWII BT-7 / T-26 Night Fighting Search Lights
DT-5 Light Machine Gun and Anti-Aircraft Mount from Eastern Express Kit No. 35109 – BT-7 Model 1935 Late Version

Figure:

One of the two figures from Alpine Miniatures Item No. 35014 – Russian Tank Crew Set – 1943-45

Tools and Materials Used

Waldron Sub-Miniature Punch and Die Set,, UMM-USA Punch Set Max, JLC Razor Saw, Olfa hobby knife
Copper wire, steel wire.
Revell Contacta Cement, Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement, Gator's Grip Acrylic Hobby Glue, Selley's Super Glue, Milliput White two-part epoxy putty, Tamiya Surface Primer, Iwata Eclipse HP-C Plus airbrush (www.airbrushes.com)

Paints:

Tamiya Acrylic Paints: X-25 Clear Green; X-26 Clear Orange; XF-1 Flat Black; XF-2 Flat White; XF-5 Flat Green; XF-10 Flat Brown; XF-15 Flat Flesh; XF-18 Medium Blue; XF-23 Light Blue; XF-57 Buff; XF-59 Desert Yellow; XF-60 Dark Yellow; XF-64 Red Brown; XF-67 NATO Green; XF-71 Cockpit Green (IJN).
Vallejo Panzer Aces: 307 Red Tail Light; 311 New Wood; 337 Highlight German Black.
Vallejo Model Color: 815 Basic Skin Tone; 847 Dark Sand; 862 Black Grey; 865 Oily Steel; 873 US Field Drab; 919 Foundation White; 924 Russian Uniform WWII; 950 Black; 988 Khaki.
Gunze Sangyo Mr Metal Color: 211 Chrome Silver
Testor's Model Master Flat Clear Lacquer

Weathering Materials:

Mig Productions: Deep Green Wash; Standard Rust P025; Rubble Dust P234; Fresh Rust P416.
Sin Industries: Blue Filter for Panzer Grey P240; Brown Filter for Dark Yellow P241; Brown Filter for Dark Green P245; Warm Grey Filter for Panzer Grey P418.
Copperplate 2B Pencil

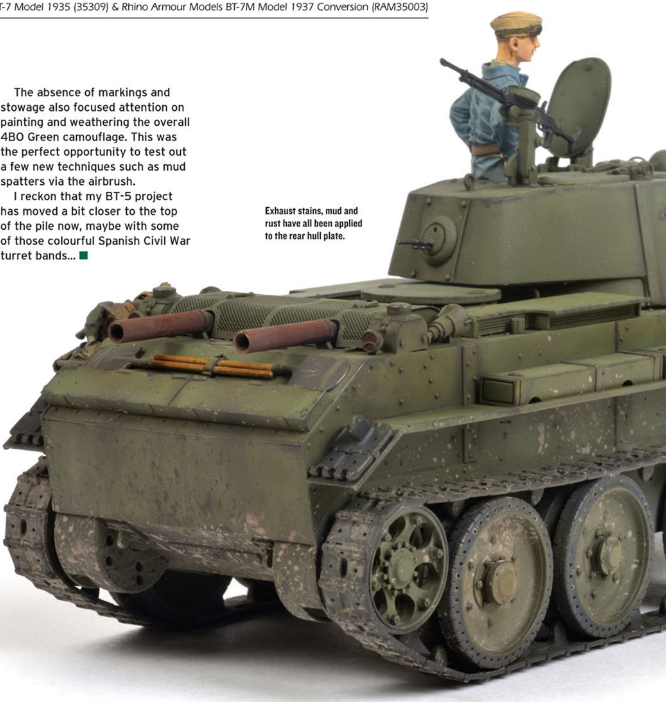
✓ Kit: Well detailed; beautifully engineered; perfect fit; includes photo-etched and clear parts. Conversion: perfect casting; excellent fit; ideal starter conversion.

✗ Ejector pin marks on tracks and hatches.

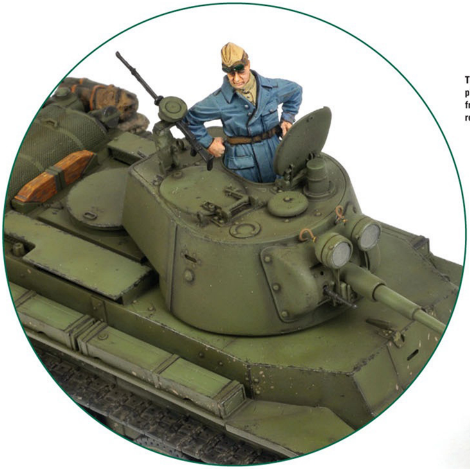
Available from

Tamiya is distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net
Rhino Armour Models products are available online from A2Zee Models www.a2zeemodels.co.uk

Rating ●●●●●●●●●○

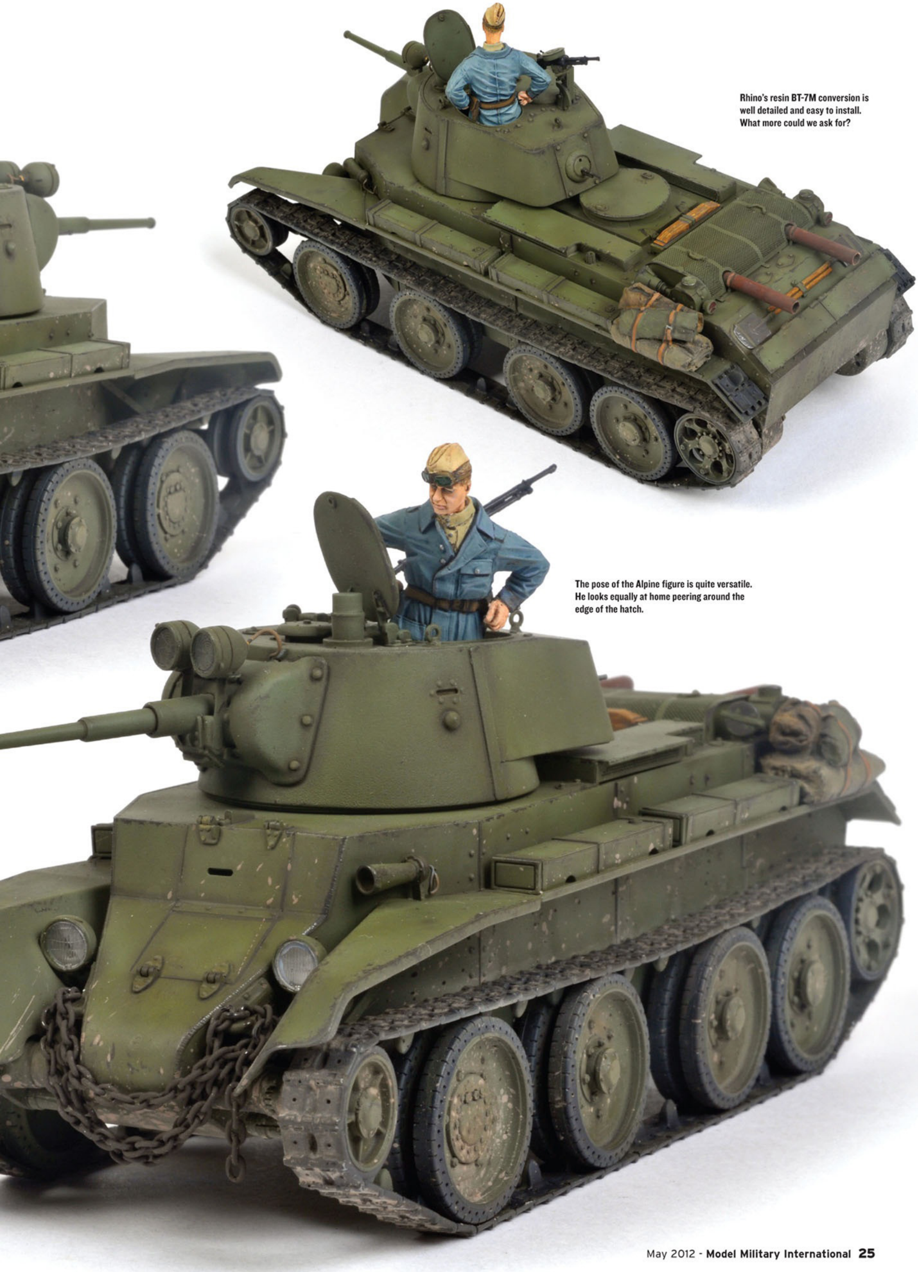


Exhaust stains, mud and rust have all been applied to the rear hull plate.



The majority of reference photos of BT-7 tanks show no markings whatsoever.

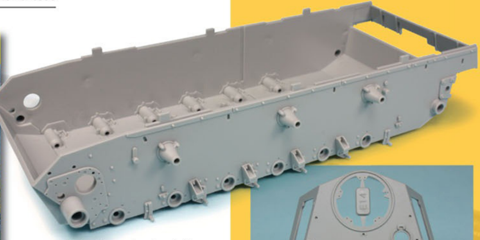
The spattered mud is a wet slurry of MIG pigments loaded onto a brush and sprayed from behind with an empty airbrush. The result is authentically random mud spatters.



Rhino's resin **BT-7M** conversion is well detailed and easy to install. What more could we ask for?

The pose of the Alpine figure is quite versatile. He looks equally at home peering around the edge of the hatch.

'39-'45 SERIES
Pz.Kpfw.III Ausf.M w/Wading Muffler
Smart Kit
DRAGON


The familiar one-piece lower hull.

WADING PANZER

The latest in Dragon's long-running 1:35 scale Panzer III family is an Ausf. M with wading kit. **Andy King** dips into the contents.

The Panzer III was originally conceived in 1935, production commencing in 1937 with the Ausf A. The tank served on various fronts from Poland to North Africa but after 1942 its main role on the battlefield was taken over by the Panzer IV and the Panzer III was used more in the support of troops. It was, however, still found in small numbers in Normandy and Italy during 1944. The chassis was also used for the StuG III series of tank destroyers, the SiG 33 infantry support gun, 'Bergepanzer' recovery vehicles and the Artillerie-Panzerbeobachtungswagen, which was an observation vehicle to support self-propelled artillery.

The Ausf M as featured in this kit was produced between October 1942 and February 1943 and was based on the 'L' chassis, the differences being that it was sealed and had equipment for crossing rivers, hence the 'Wading Muffler' in the title plus the smoke dischargers were moved from the rear of the hull to the turret sides. The rear engine deck was extended for the new exhaust system, the crew escape hatches in the hull sides were deleted and the inspection hatches on the front hull had the hinges relocated to the inside. Armed with the 5cm KwK 39 L/60 gun, it had a crew of five, was powered by a Maybach HL120 TRM and was capable of travelling at speeds of up to 25 mph (40 kph) by road and 12 mph (20kph) across country.

This then is the latest incarnation of the Panzer III by Dragon. In the box you have over 750 parts including the tracks. It may be a bit overwhelming when you see the high parts count but most will go into the spares box as the kit is made up with sprues from earlier releases of the Panzer III, StuG III and Panzer IV.

Apart from a clear sprue for the periscope blocks, the parts are crisply moulded in grey plastic with a small fret of photo-etched metal included and a decal sheet nicely printed by Cartograf. The tracks are individual links with hollow guide horns moulded in two shades of grey for left and right, the only nitpick here being that the two mould pin marks on the inside face of every link that will need to be removed. This is something that will keep you quiet for a couple of evenings.

As is usual with Dragon throughout the build, you have optional parts to choose from but no indication of what goes with any particular version so good references will be required. German tanks had different bits added or taken away almost weekly. Also be careful with the sprue lettering as there are four with 'A' on them. The instructions do mention a small 'a' and fortunately it is printed on the parts list at the beginning but Dragon didn't change it on the sprue.

The suspension is of the torsion bar type and can be made to work, which is useful for dioramas; and the Commander's cupola may be positioned either open or closed. The level of detail is what we have come to expect from Dragon but this time even the underside of the fenders have the tread-plate pattern moulded and completely free of pin marks – outstanding and something I have never seen before.

For the wading muffler you also have a choice of which exhaust pipes to fit, A1 or A23, the difference being one type is slightly longer.

The on-vehicle equipment has the tool clamps moulded on and they are a bit clunky, no doubt due to moulding limitations even for Dragon, so you can either thin them down with a scalpel or obtain aftermarket photo-etched replacements. No aluminium gun barrel is included in the kit, only a slide moulded one, however it doesn't look too bad. Also, there is little by way of interior detail save for a gun breech and empty shell basket. Again the aftermarket will be the place to go for the detail addicts.

This is a lovely kit and with Tom Cockle and Gary Edmundson as technical consultants you surely can't go wrong.

All you really need to do is check your references for the particular vehicle you wish to make but that's about it. Highly recommended! ■

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample
www.hobbyco.net

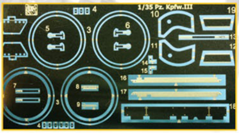
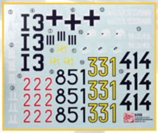
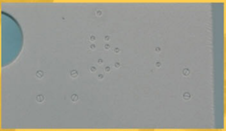


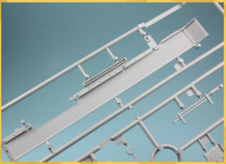
Photo-etched parts.

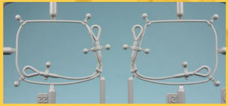


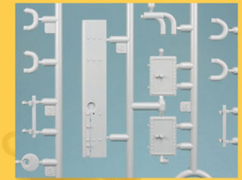
Markings are supplied for five vehicles.

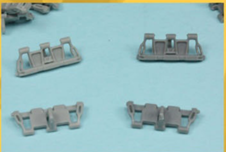
Moulding quality is very high as usual.


Check out the screw and slot detail on top of the turret.


Treadplate detail is even moulded onto the bottom of the track guards and fenders – outstanding!


Injection-moulded stowed tow cables.


One of the many "Sprue As"!


Individual Magic Track links are shaded differently for the left and right runs.

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KIT PREVIEW

BIG, BAD AND UGLY

Graham Tetley takes a first look in the box at CyberHobby's all-new 1:35 scale Neubaufahrzeug.

FEATURE ARTICLE

NEU KID ON THE BLOCK

Gary Edmundson gets his hands on a pre-release CyberHobby 1:35 scale Neubaufahrzeug Nr.2 kit, and wastes no time in getting it built.

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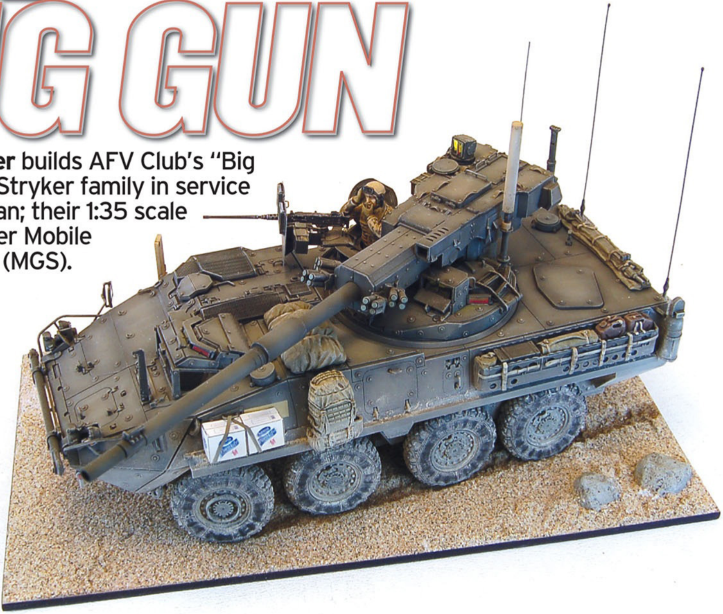
THE BIG GUN

Jim Wechsler builds AFV Club's "Big Gun" of the Stryker family in service in Afghanistan; their 1:35 scale M1128 Stryker Mobile Gun System (MGS).



The M1128 Stryker Mobile Gun System (MGS) is the 'big gun' in the Stryker family. Alhough capable of engaging enemy armour, its primary mission is direct fire support for other units in a Stryker brigade. Even though it is one of the last versions to be fielded, the M1128 has served extensively in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

But most units were deployed with the large slat armour 'cages' used to protect them from RPGs. In the real world, the slat armour gives the Stryker a tough, purposeful look. But from a modelling perspective, the slat armour seems to dominate the other features on the kit. It's also super tough to make out of photo-etch. As a result, I've been reluctant to build Strykers since I don't want to go to all that effort and then not see the rest of the model.

So I was thrilled when series of photos showed up on the Internet showing a Stryker bridge in Afghanistan without the slat armour. The vehicles have lots of other enhancements but that's the type of project I was willing to get into to!

CONSTRUCTION

The AFV Club Stryker models are really, really, nice kits. They have great detail, clean moulding, and straightforward assembly so building them out of the box is a realistic choice. So of course I chose to upgrade this one completely. Actually, most of the aftermarket items I used were to add the elements for the version in Afghanistan.

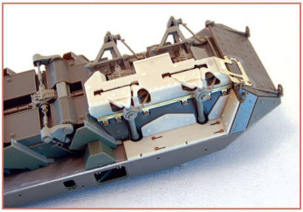
I started by assembling the main hull components and the suspension. It's pretty straightforward work but I added a little extra effort by making the adjustments necessary to turn the front four wheels. The main support posts are easy to turn but to be accurate, you really need to cut the turning linkages and reposition their angles based on the amount the wheels are turned. I felt no need to be that accurate. Instead I simply bent the parts a little. Once the wheels are on and the vehicle is sitting on the ground, you can't tell the difference.

LOTS OF UPGRADES!

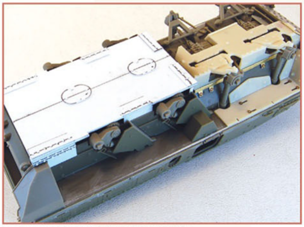
The first upgrade item I added was Real Models resin and photo-etch Driver's Enhancement Kit. This is a set of armoured plates that is intended to help protect the drivers from IEDs. The Real Models set is simple to use since it's designed for the AFV Club kit.

Behind that is a large anti-IED mine protection plate that protects the back half of the vehicle. At the time I made this model, no one made this add-on so I had to scratch build it. Now it's available from Real Models too. I didn't have a tom of references but there are enough photos to give a good idea of what it looks like and the truth is that it's only really visible from the back and the sides. I made up a template from index cards and then cut out the basic shape from 1.5mm sheet plastic. To this I added the supports and the rivets. The final result looks about right from the sides and the back so hopefully I got close.

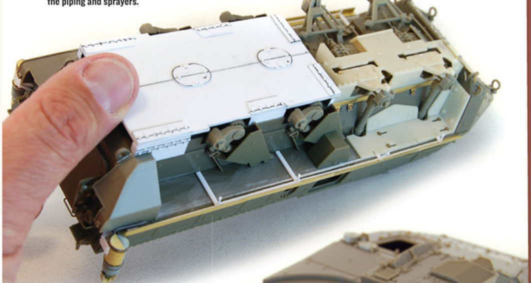
With the belly armour in place, I turned to the Tyre Fire Suppression System (TFSS). This is an add-on that is basically a fire extinguisher system to keep the tyres from burning after an



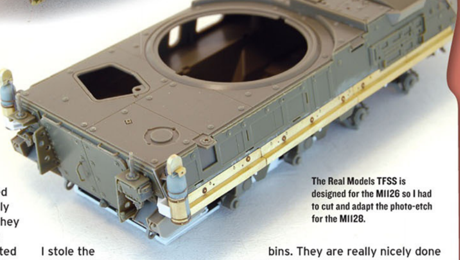
The Driver's Enhancement Kit is from Real Models



I had to scratch build the large belly armour plate.



The TFSS comes from Real Models but I had to scratch build the piping and sprayers.



The Real Models TFSS is designed for the M1126 so I had to cut and adapt the photo-etch for the M1128.

explosion. The main system is a simple pair of large bottles mounted on the back and some piping to nozzles that run along the underside of the wheel wells. They are protected by a simple sheet metal flange.

Real Models makes this add-on too but they only give you the sheet metal shroud in photo-etch and the bottles in resin so you have to make the plumbing from plastic rod. That's pretty easy. But the Real Models set is designed for the M1126 Stryker ICV. The layout of the M1128 is a little different so the photo-etch shroud has to be adapted. That was a much harder job as it involved carefully cutting some of the long photo-etch parts that make up the shroud. But patience and sanding proved to be the only skills really needed.

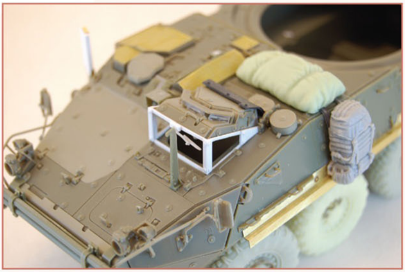
Then I mounted Real Models resin wheels. These come bulged and flattened and are specifically made for the AFV Club kits so they are a straight replacement part for the kit wheels. After I mounted them, I dragged the kit back and forth over some 220 grit sand paper to get the wheels completely flat and level on the ground.

Finally I was able to focus on the top of the hull. Most of the photos of this particular Stryker brigade show them using a windscreen for the driver. I thought I could simply buy the aftermarket item from Trumpeter. But after I got it and started to assemble it, I noticed that it is considerably different from the one being used in Afghanistan. So I ended up scratch building it. It took a few attempts to get the dimensions right and I stole the windshield wiper from the Trumpeter set.

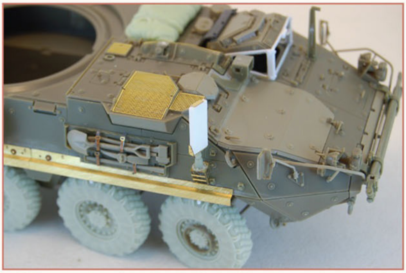
Most of the rest of the hull details are straight from the kit but on the right side there is a new ECM Jammer. Thankfully, Real Models includes the nice photo-etch brackets and a resin spring mount in their TFSS set. So all I had to do was cut the main jammer plate from sheet plastic and it was good to go. That was an unexpected and very nice bonus that saved a decent amount of scratch building.

On the back of the hull I decided to use Blast Models resin stowage bins. They are really nicely done with all the gear cast right along with the bins to make a simple drop in replacement set of bins, for the M1126 that is. The M1128 MGS has significantly shorter bins. So I had to carefully saw off the ends of the Blast parts, saw off the right length segment, and then reattach the ends. After a little putty work, I was pleasantly surprised that I couldn't see the gaps and the stowage looked okay too.

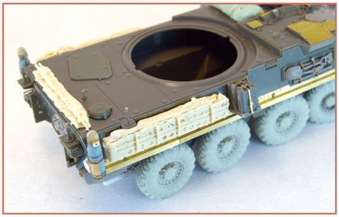
I wrapped up the hull construction by placing a large tarp just behind the driver's hatch and a large pack hanging off the rack on the left side. Later I'll add some ▶



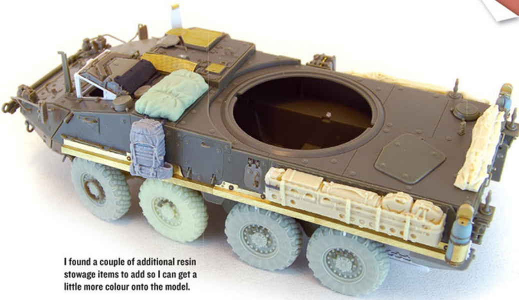
Strykers in Afghanistan use a new type of windscreen that I had to scratch build.



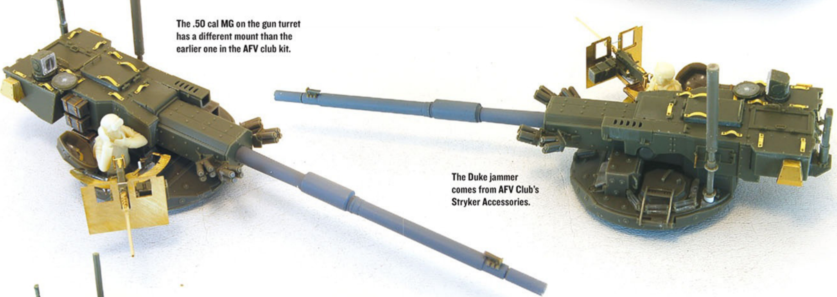
The ECM jammer supports are included in the Real Models TFSS but I had to make the plate out of sheet plastic.



The rear stowage bins come from Blast Models but they are the longer types used on the M1126. I had to carefully cut out a section to get the right length.

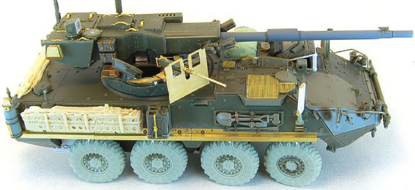


I found a couple of additional resin stowage items to add so I can get a little more colour onto the model.

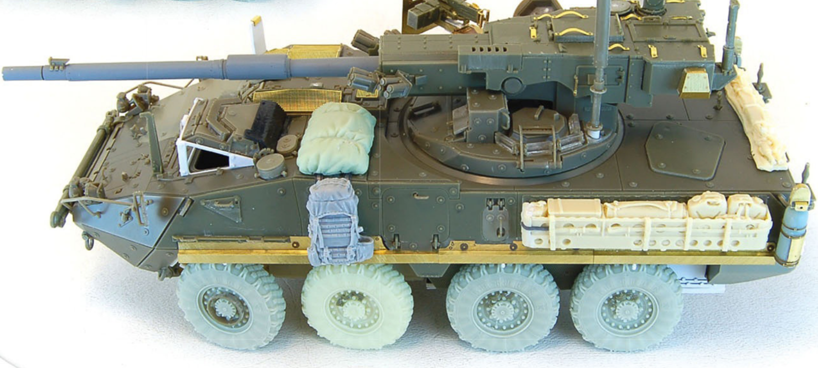


The .50 cal MG on the gun turret has a different mount than the earlier one in the AFV club kit.

The Duke jammer comes from AFV Club's Stryker Accessories.



It is hard to believe how many updates were necessary to make this version of the Stryker in Afghanistan.



folded paper water bottle boxes to the rack on the front left.

The turret was considerably less work but the new mount for the .50 cal machine gun was a big job. This is included in the Eduard photo-etch set. But assembly is tough and the final result is quite flimsy so I had to reinforce it with some sheet plastic that I strategically placed under the weapon ring. While I was at it, I replaced the gun barrel with a very nice metal one from RB Models that also comes with metal handles for the back. I hate to admit it, but I'm hooked on these metal barrels since the .50 cal MG is usually a very visible item.

The figure is a slightly modified Verlinden item. On the left side I added the Duke ECM jammer. This one is from AFV Club's Stryker update set, which is really just a set of their sprues from other Stryker kits.

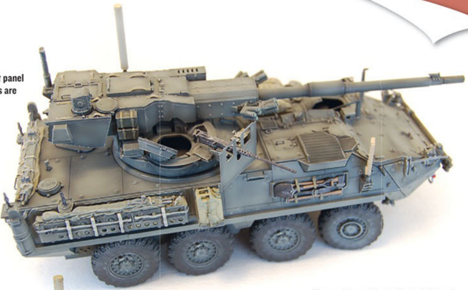
That wrapped up the construction. Time to paint.

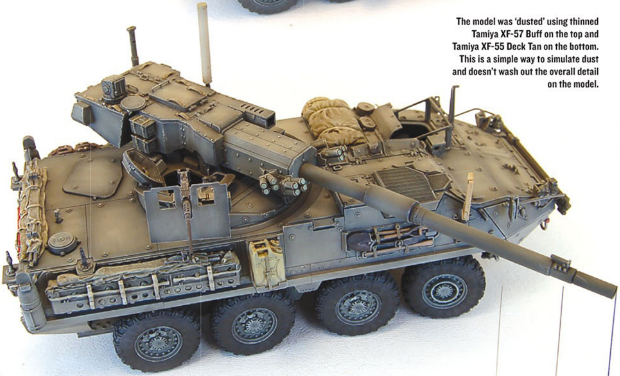
PAINTING AND WEATHERING

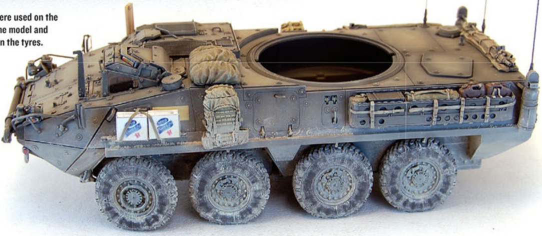
Strykers are painted dark green so it's a challenge to paint them in a way that all the detail doesn't blend in and get lost. I like to use the panel fading method. To do this, I started by giving the model a base coat of flat black. Then I painted Testor's Model Master Green Drab but only filled in the centres of each 'panel', leaving the black showing through on the edges. Then I repeated this with Model Master Faded Olive Drab but only in the very centre of the panels. With so many 'bits' on the Stryker, the result is pretty striking (I just couldn't resist the pun).

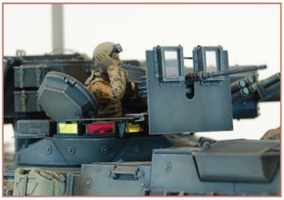
This method really adds depth to the colours on the model and I've found that doing a little dry brushing using Model Master Afrika Dunkelgrau (a tan-grey colour) helps to bring out the details on the model's surface to compliment the panel fading.

With the basic colours in place, I hand painted the small items and the stowage. I tried to use as

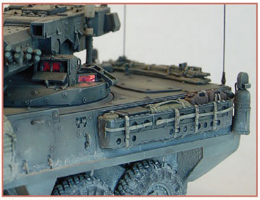

The basic painting is just panel faded Olive Drab. Details are hand painted.


The model was 'dusted' using thinned Tamiya XF-57 Buff on the top and Tamiya XF-55 Deck Tan on the bottom. This is a simple way to simulate dust and doesn't wash out the overall detail on the model.


Pigments were used on the bottom of the model and especially on the tyres.


AFV Club sells a set of stickers that simulate the anti-laser reflective coating on the periscopes and sensor glass. They reflect different colours depending on how the light hits them.

You can see the driver through the large windscreen.


Close up detail of the hull fittings.

many different colours of greens and tans that I could justify to get as much overall colour variation as possible. Once that was done, the model was lightly panel faded again using very thinned Tamiya Buff. I call this 'dusting' since its effect is to give the model a look of being dusty. I like this method because you don't lose too much detail as you might if you only use pigments.

Next I gave the model an overall wash using thinned Raw Umber oil paint. This really helps to bring out the details again while also blending in the dry brushing so it doesn't look so stark. I wrapped up the weathering by using some pigments on the lower hull and especially on the tyres. This definitely shows the heavy dust build up on the Strykers in Afghanistan and I've not found anything more effective than dry pigments for this look.

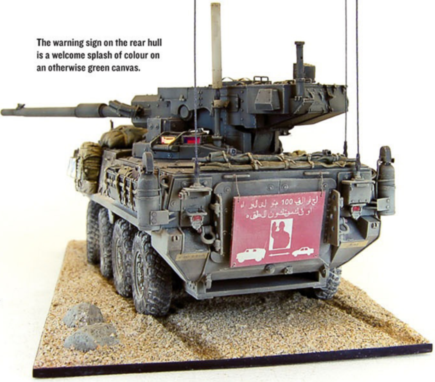
The last step in finishing up the model was to use AFV Club's set of stickers for the periscopes and sensors lenses. These are designed to reflect different colours depending on how the light hits them just like the real anti-laser coating. The effect is very impressive and being stickers, they are super easy to use. I wish companies would make periscope stickers for all the models!

FINISHING UP

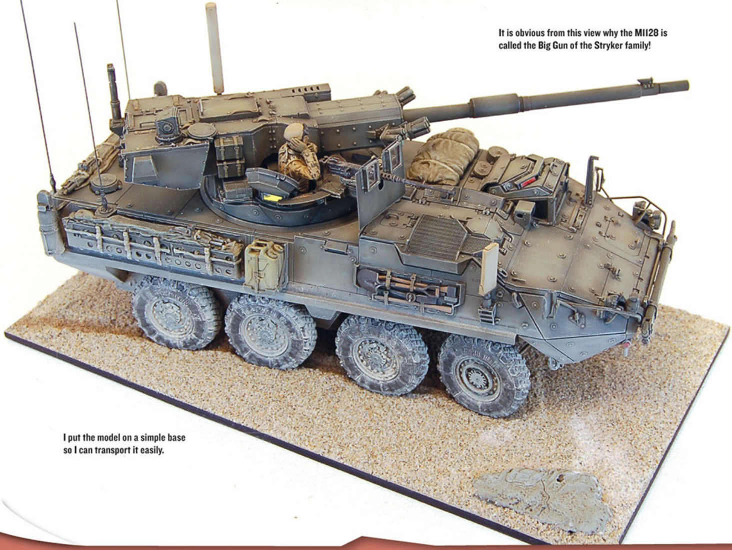
I completed the model by putting the two figures in place. With the large windscreen, it is quite easy to see the driver but I didn't both to try to paint the camouflage on him since it is too dark to see that. The other figure does have my best attempt at the digital camouflage. It's really hard to paint but thankfully the protective vest has a lot of straps to break up the pattern.

I ended up putting the model on a simple base of sand since I like to go to the local shows and this is an easy way to transport it without taking up too much space.

This build, though complex, ended up being very pleasurable thanks to the high quality of the kit and the aftermarket items. I'm glad to finally be able to make a model of a Stryker in action and I predict that it won't be my last. ■



The warning sign on the rear hull is a welcome splash of colour on an otherwise green canvas.



It is obvious from this view why the M1128 is called the Big Gun of the Stryker family!

I put the model on a simple base so I can transport it easily.

Modelspec

AFV Club 1:35 scale Stryker M1128 MGS Mobile Gun System. Kit No. 35128

Materials

Green and clear coloured plastic, vinyl wheels, photo-etch.

Accessories Used

Real Models Driver's Enhancement Kit. (RM35208)
Real Models Resin Stryker Wheels. (RM35143)
Real Models Tyre Fire Suppression System (TFSS). (RM35209)
Blast Models M1126 Stowage Set No.2. (BL35115K)
Eduard Photo-Etched Set. (EDU36068)
Modified Verlinden Figure
AFV Club Stryker update set
AFV Club stickers for periscopes and sensors lenses

Paints and Finishing Products

Testor's Model Master Enamels - Green Drab; Faded Olive Drab; Afrika Dunkelgrau
Tamiya Acrylics - XF-55 Deck Tan; XF-57 Buff
Raw Umber Oil Paint

References Used

Stryker, Carl Schulze & Ralph Zwilling, Concord Publication 7515, ISBN 962-361-141-2
Iraq Insurgency Part 2, Carl Schulze, Concord Publication 7519, ISBN 962-361-158-7

✓ High level of detail; lots of opportunities for superdetailing

✗ Any colour you want as long as it's green!

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AFV Club Kits are distributed in the UK by Pocketbond.

Rating ●●●●●●●●●○

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BED AND BATH

Federico Collada shares some thoughts on building, painting and weathering Bronco's interesting 1:35 scale between-the-wars German armoured car; The Kfz. 14 "Adler".

At the end of the First World War, the Treaty of Versailles limited Germany's weapons development. Specifically in relation to scout cars, it was specified that they should have four wheels and no turret.

The German Army opted for the Adler 4 x 4 commercial truck in this role, to which they added an open bodied armoured superstructure.

Both armoured vehicles were manufactured by Daimler Benz in Edelstahl AG in Hannover on a chassis provided by Adlerwerke.

The Maschinengewehrkraftwagen (Kfz.13) and Funkkraftwagen (Kfz.14) were used in reconnaissance units from 1932 to 1941 with a total production of 147 of the Kfz.13 model and 40 of the Kfz.14. While the first one had an MG 13 machine gun on a pedestal mount, the second, instead of armament, had long-range radio equipment with a framed antenna similar to a bed base, which is why they were commonly called "bed aerials".

Both vehicles were designed to be used together, and they participated in the campaigns of Poland and France at the beginning of the Second World War. As soon as the next armoured scout vehicles were available they were taken out of service because of their poor cross-country performance and their inadequate armour-plating.

Technical Specifications:

- Crew: 2 (3 in Kfz.14)
- Weight: 2.1 t.
- Length: 4.2 m.
- Width: 1.7 m.
- Height: 1.46 m.
- Motor: Adler Standard 6 of 2.9 l., 60 hp at 3,200 rpm
- Gears: 4 forward and 1 reverse
- Speed: 70 km./h.
- Range: 300 km.
- Armament: Kfz.13 1 – 7.92 mm. MG13
- Ammunition: 1,000 shells
- Armour-plating: 8 mm.

"DAS BADEWANNE" (THE BATHTUB)

Until this Bronco release, if we wanted to build a Kfz. 13/14, we could only look to limited run resin and multimedia kits of varying quality. That is why the release of this model by Bronco has been so exciting.

This small vehicle is surely attractive, not just as the forerunner of a large family of German wheeled armoured vehicles during the Second World War, but also due to its pleasing aesthetics thanks to the pronounced contrast of its straight and curved lines.

The model captures that pre-war look perfectly – a blend of fragility and strength, design and improvisation.

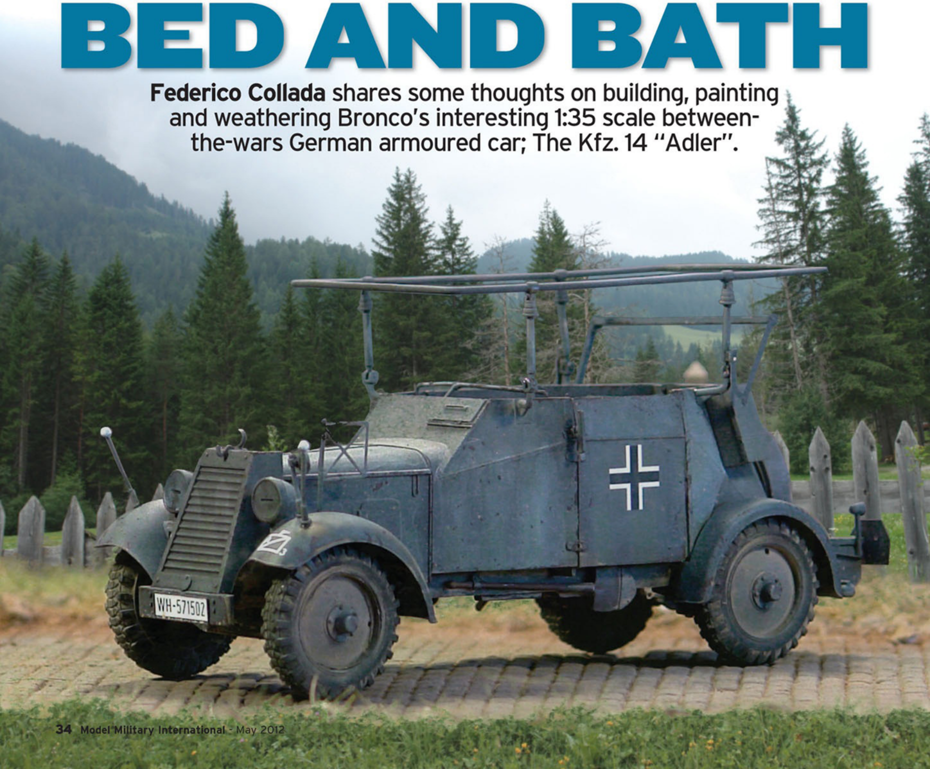
With its six sprues of plastic parts and its photo-etched fret, Bronco's 1:35 scale Adler is superior in quality compared to its earlier resin counterparts.

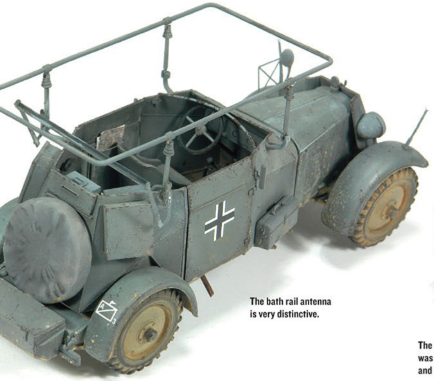
The model is moulded in high quality cream coloured plastic with no faulty parts or moulding seams. The logically laid-out instructions make building the kit a breeze, and painting directions are provided at every step of the way too.

You only have to be careful to thoroughly attach the photo-etched parts so that they do not come adrift from the model during the painting phase. Also, some of the smaller and more delicate pieces should be handled carefully as they may break while removing them from the sprues.

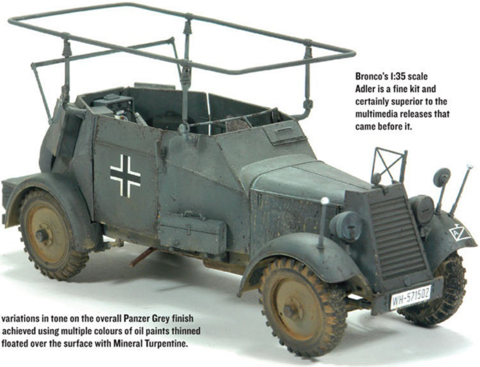
In my case I decided not to glue some pieces until I finished with the painting: doors, wheels, aerial, shovel. That way it was easier to paint them properly, as you can get to places that later would be more difficult. This was especially important with some painting techniques such as the sponge stencil that require a bigger application tool than a fine paint brush.

Although all these pieces were painted at the same time, I did not glue them on until the end. From the two marking options offered by the manufacturer in the





The bath rail antenna is very distinctive.



Bronco's 1:35 scale Adler is a fine kit and certainly superior to the multimedia releases that came before it.

The variations in tone on the overall Panzer Grey finish was achieved using multiple colours of oil paints thinned and floated over the surface with Mineral Turpentine.

instructions sheet, I opted for the grey camouflage, seeing service in France during 1940.

Model construction was not difficult.

PAINTING AND WEATHERING

With the sub-assemblies ready I sprayed a coat of Tamiya XF-63 German Grey acrylic paint as a base, and then I applied some highlights with the airbrush using bluish-grey and then light grey paint as colour filters, diluting the paint with alcohol in a mix of 20% of paint and 80% of alcohol and applying it over the flat surfaces to increase the shadow effect on the details.

Next, from a greater distance, and with a thinner mix I sprayed the paler colour over the whole model. This way the paint highlights the raised details.

I gave the model a coat of Tamiya gloss varnish in preparation for the decals. These were applied using Micro Set and Micro Sol products, which suck down any decal to the roughest model surface.

Once the decals were dry, I sprayed them with matt varnish. After that I painted the peeled off painting areas showing some rusted metal with a dark brown Life Colour acrylic paint using the sponge technique. This involves stippling the surface of the model using a little piece of sponge. You must be carful not to use too much paint, and it is always advisable to practice on a piece of scrap plastic first.

I repeated the same operation with an orange-brown colour, trying to leave less patches than before.

With grey, blue, orange and cream Mig oils paint, I created the patches on the doors, panels, etc., using turpentine as a vehicle to spread the oils. First you wash the surface with turpentine and before it dries you spread tiny amounts of different oil colours and immediately you stencil over them with a brush wetted with turpentine to melt the colours over the surface, creating a mapping effect.

After letting the oils dry for a day I applied a wash of brown and black mix of oils to highlight the details such as rivets, hinges, etc.

With a black-lead pencil I rubbed some edges to simulate bare metal exposed under worn paint.

Mig pigments were mixed with water to make a wash to dirty the bottom of the car. Once dry, you can remove the excess by simply scrubbing with a brush.

To add some details inside I cut out some maps and magazines from the instruction sheet of a Miniart model; and added some straps, binoculars and a helmet from other kits. ■

Modelspec

Bronco 1:35 scale Adler Kfz.14 Funkkraftwagen
Kit No. CB35051

Paints & Finishing Products

Tamiya XF-63 German Grey
Tamiya Gloss Varnish
Lifecolour Acrylics
MIG Productions Oil Paints
Turpentine

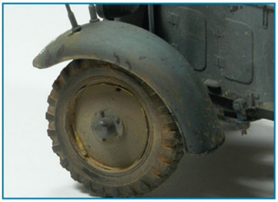
✓ Good detail; easy build; good fit; superior to all previous multimedia Adlers.

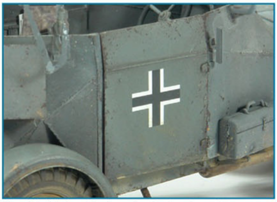
✗ Nothing worth mentioning.

Available from

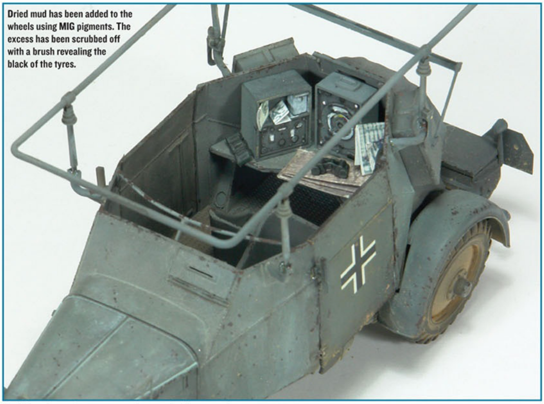
Available in the UK from www.hannants.co.uk

Rating ●●●●●●●●●○



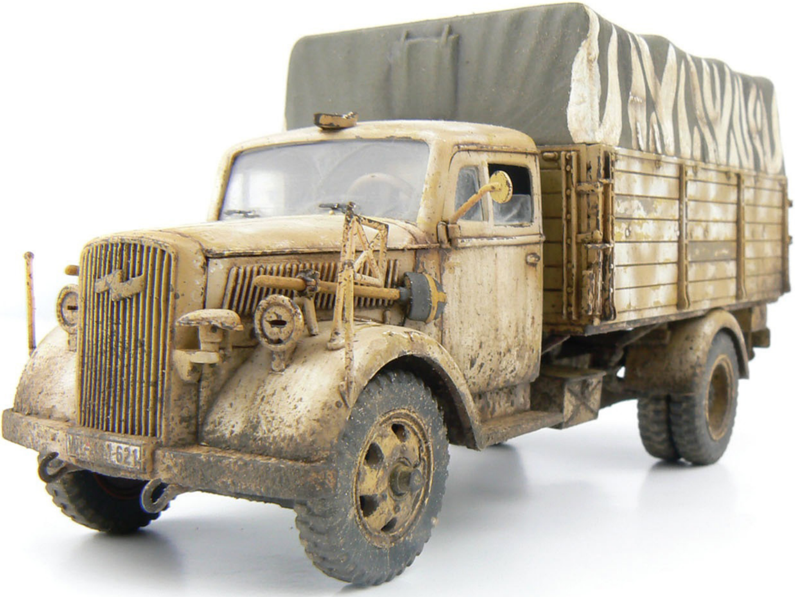


The subtle chipping of the doors edges has been done using sponge technique.



Dried mud has been added to the wheels using MIG pigments. The excess has been scrubbed off with a brush revealing the black of the tyres.

The kit's radio equipment was supplemented with maps and papers.



WINTER GEM

Recently bitten by the armour modelling bug, **Jamie Haggo** broadens his horizons with his first soft skin – Tamiya's re-boxed 1:48 scale Opel Blitz truck.

I caught the AFV modelling bug about a year ago, mainly due to watching the inspirational DVDs from Mig Jimenez. The winter weathering DVD has to be one of my favourites in the series. In the first part Mig describes how he achieved a winter finish on a 1:35 Opel Blitz in all over dark yellow and this was so inspiring I had to have a go at it although decided to see if I could use Tamiya's boxing of the Italeri kit in 1:48. With the kit duly purchased and sat on the bench I got to work.

CANVASSING THE TARP

Construction was very straightforward. As I wanted to use this model as a vehicle for winter weathering I wasn't bothered about enhancing the detail. It is very nice straight from the box anyway, however there were a few issues I couldn't live with, both regarding the tarp on the rear.

Overall the tarp isn't bad, but it is smooth. In order to impart a canvas finish, Tamiya filler was thinned with Cellulose thinners and stippled on. When dry the high spots were knocked back with a sanding pad. This still wasn't exactly what I had in mind so I went back over it with Mr Surfacer which was stippled when tacky. At last I had a rough surface, which looked much better.

The folding flap had quite a bit of moulding excess that was difficult to clean up. It also didn't look that authentic so off it came. I tried using Milliput to replace it but the results looked poor so I used wine bottle foil in order to close the back. This had the other bonus of sealing off the inside, thus disguising the awkward ejector pin marks.

PAINTING

With construction out of the way, it was time for paint. Following priming, the base coat was airbrushed on. For this I used Tamiya XF-60 Dark Yellow lightened slightly with XF-2 Flat White. However in hindsight I think next time I'll use a bit more white and some buff. The tarp was painted with random green mixed from various tones.

As I mentioned earlier I am new to AFV modelling and learning all the time. One of the lessons that I have picked up is the base colour needs to be fairly light as the subsequent techniques will darken the overall finish.

With the base coat on, the white was sprayed on the body of the truck. This was Tamiya white mixed with some gloss and thinned quite heavily. I kept the paint away from edges as this is where it would fade and wear first. In order to simulate a field applied camouflage on the tarp, Vallejo acrylic was brush painted on. Quite a few coats were required to make the colour opaque however this added to the realism of a brush painted job.

It doesn't take long to get the cab together but there is a need for a little bit of Mr Surfacer to tidy a few joints.

Likewise, the rear section is simple to construct and well detailed with the exception of the tarp surface which needs sorting out.

Quite a few modellers don't like vinyl tyres although I am a big fan. Roughened up with a fine sanding sponge they look much more realistic.

Assembled with a couple of screws, the model is now ready for paint.

ANYONE FOR CHIPS?

The next modelling session dealt with the chipping. Initially the dark yellow chips were applied with a fine brush from various Vallejo paints mixed to match the base coat. I wanted to try and simulate some of the bare wood on the rear of the vehicle to add to the bashed up nature of the vehicle. These chips were simulated using a grey brown tone again mixed from the Vallejo range.

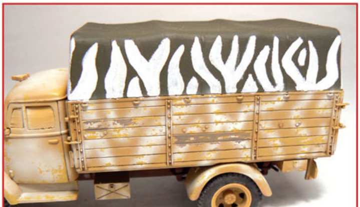
Now it was time to make the bare metal dings and scrapes. My favourite paint for simulating weathered exposed steel is Vallejo 70822 German Camouflage Black Brown again from Vallejo (an idea shamelessly pinched from the DVD).

Using a new 4/0 fine brush, the paint was applied in what I hope looks like an authentic pattern. It is quite easy to get carried away and apply far too much so I take regular breaks and return to the model with fresh eyes.

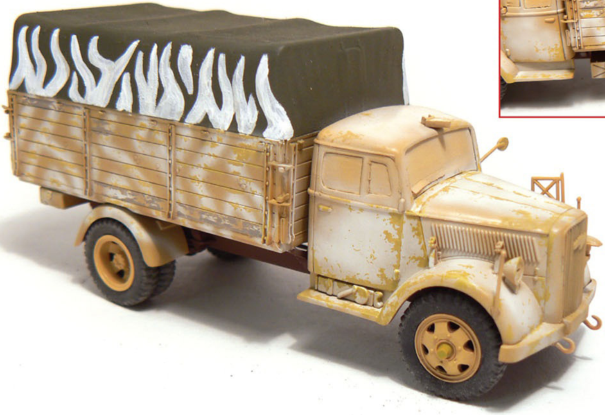
FILTERS AND WASHES

We're getting there but there's still a way to go yet. Everything looks far too fresh so it's time to blend things together and add a bit of depth and grime.

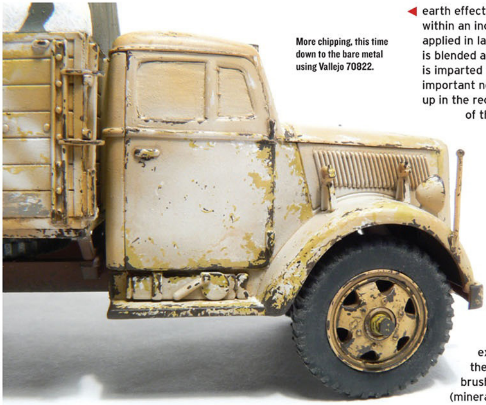
The first stage was the filters. Being a bit of a skinflint I don't buy commercial filters. I mix my own using AK Interactive's enamel weathering products. For this model I used streaking grime and ▶



It is important to be logical with the positioning of the chips but how far you go is up to you and/or your references. I thought that I would chip the rear part down to the bare wood for added wear and tear.



With the base coat applied, the white areas can be chipped, Vallejo acrylics are my medium of choice owing to its superior brush painting qualities.



More chipping, this time down to the bare metal using Vallejo 70822.

Edges and sticky out bits are prime candidates for chipping.

earth effects thinned heavily to within an inch of their lives. When applied in layers, the paintwork is blended and a slight grimy look is imparted to the model. It is important not to let the filter build up in the recesses - that's the job of the wash.

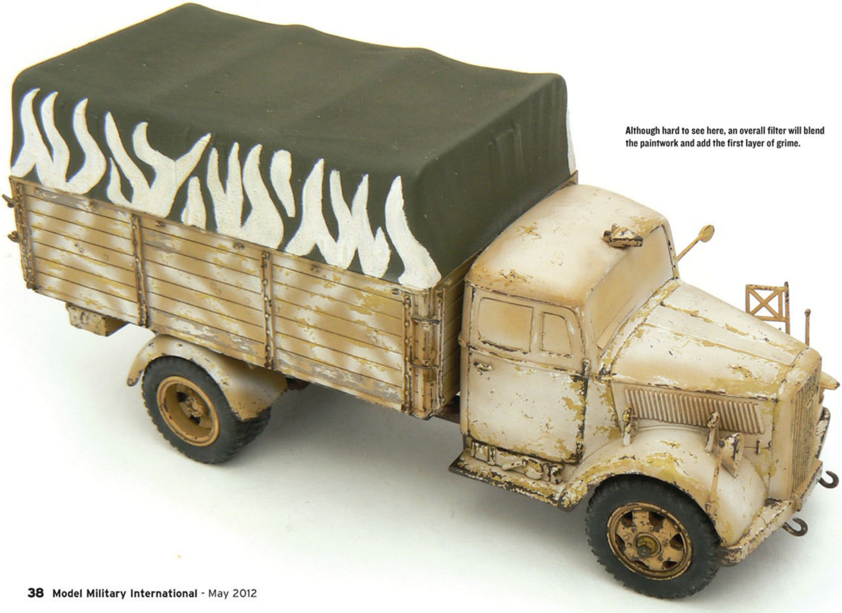
The wash will give false shadows and therefore enhance the depth of the model. For this I used Mig Productions' Dark Wash, which is a very dark black/brown tone. Applied in the areas of detail, it is dabbed on allowing capillary action to draw it along. After a few minutes, when touch dry, the excess is removed from the model using a clean brush dampened in white (mineral) spirits.

IT'S A STREAKER!

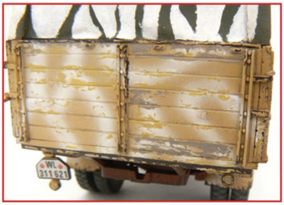
Okay, now we have depth but we really need to get grimy so it's out with the AK Interactive streaking grime. Not having the winter streaking grime I had to use the standard streaking grime however this still gives the right effect that I was after. The product is added to the model on the vertical surfaces using a fine brush and when dry, it is blended with a clean flat brush moistened in white spirit. The key here is to make the streaking very subtle. If it ends up too subtle then it is easy to reapply.

Another streaking effect that is important to remain subtle is rust. Even though these vehicles were worked hard, they weren't left to rot (well, many were eventually but that will require a completely different approach). Exactly the same application technique is used but here it's important to be selective about where the rust streaks will be applied. Again, it is important to be subtle. ▶

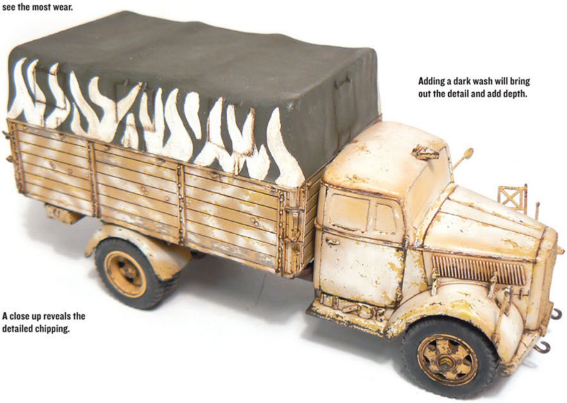
> **"One of the lessons that I have picked up is the base colour needs to be fairly light as the subsequent techniques will darken the overall finish..."**



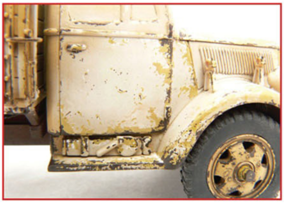
Although hard to see here, an overall filter will blend the paintwork and add the first layer of grime.



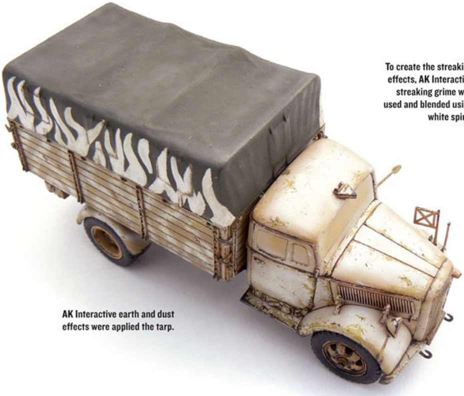
More chipping was done on the rear of the vehicle as this would see the most wear.



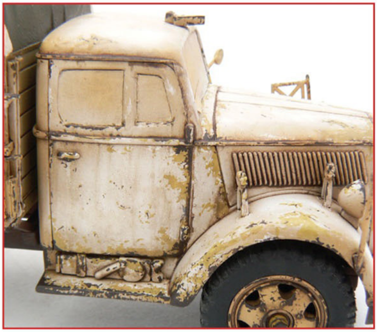
Adding a dark wash will bring out the detail and add depth.



A close up reveals the detailed chipping.



AK Interactive earth and dust effects were applied the tarp.



To create the streaking effects, AK Interactive streaking grime was used and blended using white spirit.

- The set includes four figures of Soviet Staff Personnel 1943-1945 period – two generals, officer and driver
- Correct details of uniform and awards
- The set may be used in dioramas with Soviet and also captured WWII passenger cars models

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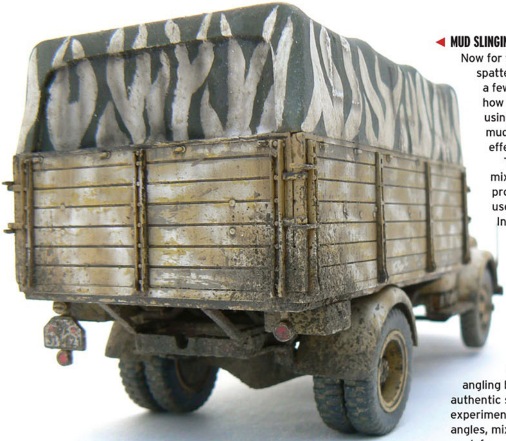
1:35



Mud can be notoriously difficult to pull off. The techniques in the Mig Jimenez DVD make it look easy.

MUD SLINGING

Now for the final stage - the spattered mud. There are quite a few techniques out there on how to achieve this, however using the airbrush to blow the mud onto the model is very effective and realistic.

The mud itself is a thin mixture of AK Interactive product and plaster, I use Polyfilla. The AK Interactive stuff comes in many different shades and for this model I used earth effects for the dried mud and dark mud for the fresher stuff. With some on an old brush, hold it next to the model and squirt the airbrush at the model angling both in order to get an authentic splatter. It is best to experiment to determine what angles, mixes and air pressures work for you however. If it does go awry, the gloop can be removed with a clean brush moistened in white spirit.

IN SUMMARY

Well, what a fun little project and one that I have wanted to do ever since I first watched the DVD. I still have a way to go to in my AFV modelling however inspirational models such as Mig Jimenez's truck really help, especially as you can watch the master at work on the telly! ■

Modelspec

Tamiya (Italeri) 1:48 scale Opel Blitz. Kit No. 89782

Paints and Finishing Products:

Tamiya acrylics - XF-1 Flat Black; XF-2 Flat White; XF-60 Dark Yellow.

Vallejo Acrylics - 70822 German Camouflage Black Brown and various others.

AK Interactive enamel weathering products.

MIG Productions Dark Wash. Mineral Spirits.

Pollyfilla.

✓ Fast easy build; great platform for detailing and weathering.

✗ Smooth tarp texture; folding flap had quite a bit of moulding excess.

Available from

Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

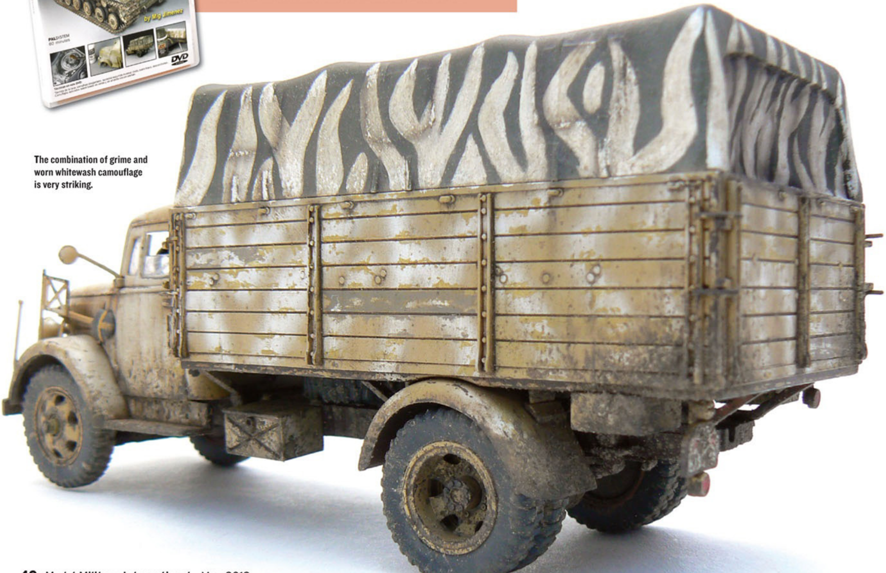
Rating ●●●●●●●●○○

english
AK interactive
weathering techniques for invernal vehicles
winter techniques
técnicas invernales
keep it cool!
by Mig Jimenez
DVD

AK Interactive Videos featuring Mig Jiminez

AK Interactive's Winter Techniques video presented by Mig Jiminez was Jamie's inspiration for this attractive whitewashed scheme.

This helpful video is available online from Creative Models Limited at www.creativemodels.co.uk



The combination of grime and worn whitewash camouflage is very striking.

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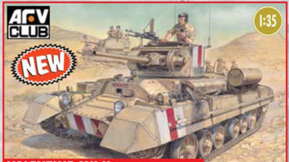
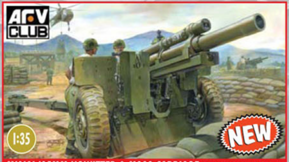
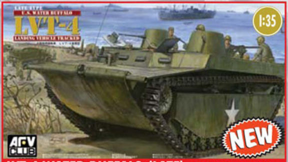

AFV CLUB
1:35
NEW

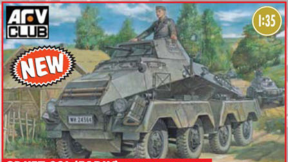
VALENTINE MK II AF35185 £39.99


AFV CLUB
1:35
NEW

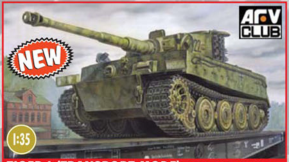
M101A1 105MM HOWITZER & M2A2 CARRIAGE AF35191 £26.99


LVT-4
1:35
AFV CLUB
NEW

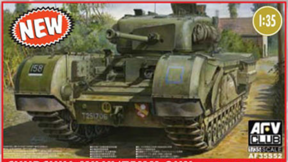
LVT-4 WATER BUFFALO (LATE) AF35198 £39.99


AFV CLUB
1:35
NEW

SDKFZ 231 (EARLY) AF35231 £39.99


AFV CLUB
NEW
1:35

TIGER I (TRANSPORT MODE) AF35S25 £34.99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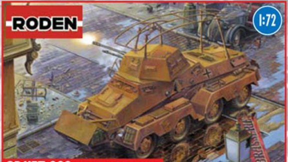
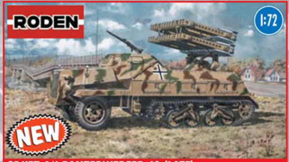
AFV CLUB
AF35S52

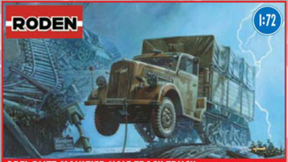
CHURCHILL MK VI/75MM GUN AF35S52 £42.99



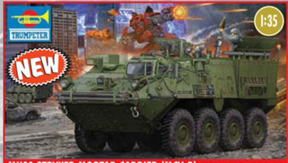
SDKFZ.232 URO-704 £8.99


RODEN
1:72
NEW

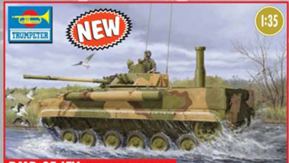
SDKFZ 4/1 PANZERWERFER 42 (LATE) URO-714 £10.99



OPEL BLITZ MAULTIER HALF TRACK TRUCK URO-715 £11.99


TRUMPETER
1:35
NEW

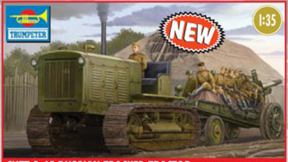
M1129 STRYKER MORTAR CARRIER (MCV-B) TM01512 £29.99


TRUMPETER
NEW
1:35

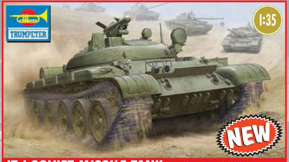
BMP-3E IFV TM01530 £29.99

TRUMPETER
1:35
NEW

JGSDF TYPE 87 AW TM01599 £29.99


TRUMPETER
NEW
1:35

CHTZ S-65 RUSSIAN TRACKED TRACTOR TM05538 £28.99


TRUMPETER
1:35
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AN INTERVIEW WITH ARTIST RON VOLSTAD

Luke Pitt spends some time with **Ron Volstad,** who tells us about his background and describes the process of creating his well-known artworks.

Ron Volstad surely needs no introduction. His art adorns many Dragon kits; while his work for Osprey and other publishers has been an inspiration to many.

Two things have set Ron's art apart from the rest: his research is almost always flawless, (ensuring an instant reference source) and his fluid painting style brings a richness and motivational force to any box top his art appears on.

I have long held the belief that good box art sells kits. Good art can be a motivator and there have been many occasions were the box art alone has prompted me to purchase a kit.

Ron has opened his files to give us a rare glimpse steps involved in producing a piece of box art.

It is indeed a great pleasure to have him with us:

Luke: Good to have you with us Ron. Will you tell the readers what prompted you into illustration?

Ron: *I've been told that I was drawing pictures as soon as I was able to hold a pencil. Growing up in a rural Western Canadian community in the 1950's, I drew the farm scenes that I was familiar with. Then one day, my uncle, who had served with the Calgary Highlanders in NW Europe, brought out his war souvenirs and photos. It was as if a switch had been thrown and I knew that somehow military history was to be my destiny.*

Luke: Who were your main influences as a young artist?

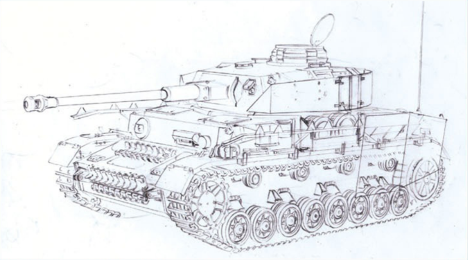
Ron: *The family farm received the Saturday Evening Post weekly and it regularly featured covers painted by Norman Rockwell. His style of realism greatly appealed to me. A bit later I took notice of the military magazine cover art by Mort Kunstler. His attention to detail was impressive. I was always aware of model box art and I suppose the Revell kits with Jack Leynnwood`s illustrations impressed me most. It was a few years on when I first saw the amazingly exciting box art of Yoshiyuki Takani on Tamiya kits.*

Luke: Can you tell the readers a little of the process involved in producing a profile or a piece of box art, I imagine the research would be most time consuming part?

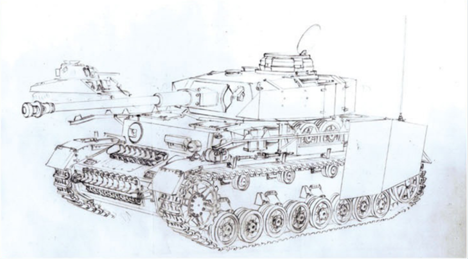
Ron: *Indeed, research is paramount. I suppose that I consider myself more of an historian than an artist. It is very important to me that I get things as accurate as possible and I am hugely mortified when errors occur. The research and drawing preparation is easily 50-70% of each project. Perhaps I should point out that because each project is developed under some measure of confidentiality, any research has to come from one's own resources. The internet has been more than a little helpful.*

Luke: I am a great fan of your style of illustration. You seem to use poster or water colour for your illustrations. Is that correct?

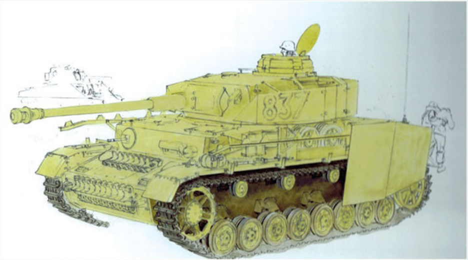
Ron: *I have tried all the water media at one time or other but for a number of reasons switched to acrylics some*



The first step in preparing the box art for a Dragon Panzer IV is to prepare a base drawing. The drawing is scanned into the computer, which is then printed onto an illustration board.



With the subject printed, other elements of the box art are added in outline form.



Just like a model, the paint job starts with a dark yellow base coat, in this case water-based acrylics applied by brush. The shadowy areas under the top track run are also painted at this stage.

twenty years back. My favorites are Golden Fluid Acrylics and Holbein Acryla gouache.

Luke: Is the use of this medium in a quest for speed or style?

Ron: *Speed is the primary reason to use water media. It dries almost immediately. Oil paints can take days. Style is a function of how one uses the medium and in the world of illustration time is the driver of the style developed. There are a great number of illustrations that I have shipped that could well have benefited many more hours of work. In theory, a typical assignment is roughly two weeks of work. In reality this is commonly, much more.*

Luke: Can you run through the process from start to finish on how a box top illustration is produced? I imagine a client would approach you with a specific subject?

Ron: *The client provides the subject to be illustrated and seldom do I know what`s coming next although sometimes I can guess. The first thing to do is to ascertain the exact version of the subject, which may take considerable communication with the client. Once determined, a search is made for a "donor" image, which might be a photo of a museum example, restored vehicle, period photo or even a built model. Alas, I lack the talent or ability to draw these things from scratch! Regardless of choice, it can be guaranteed that a great deal of time and effort will be required just to turn it into something resembling the kit subject. When dealing with a figure subject I arrange for someone to model the poses. Over the years I've acquired enough uniforms and kit to cover most potential subjects.*

With the subject drawing underway a search is made for vehicle markings. This will dictate the scene in which the subject will be presented. This is easily the most difficult aspect of most box illustrations and even days of effort might only result in a couple of options. The confidentiality of the project precludes asking for assistance beyond a narrow group of advisors.

Once the initial drawing has been completed it is redrawn to incorporate corrections and refine details. Then it is transferred to the final illustration board. In years past this was an exceeding boring chore involving an overhead projector and two days of work. Happily, digital technology has relieved me of that miserable task and with the drawing scanned into my computer; it is then printed onto an illustration board.

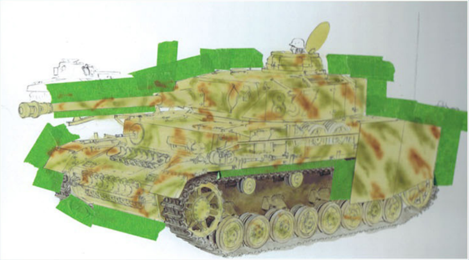
The colour rendering is definitely the fun part of the process and each painting teaches me something new. In order to preserve the drawing details, the paint is applied in thin layers. If a camouflage pattern was sprayed on the real vehicle, I break out the airbrush and do the same. Alas things don't always progress well. I suspect that most illustrators would admit that their failed attempts would easily match their finished artwork.

Luke: Do you have any leeway for "artistic freedom" in this process?

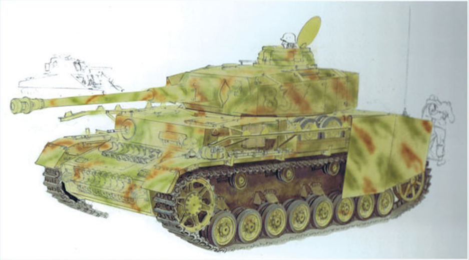
Ron: *For the most part I am left to my own resources when producing illustrations, whether it be uniforms or AFVs. Occasionally, specific directions are provided such as view angle, markings or location and I am grateful to be relieved of some of the decision making. A great deal of consideration is given to each project, always with the hope of producing an image that is original, evocative and accurate.*

Luke: I have always thought good box art sells plastic kits. In that vein, who do you admire as a box top illustrator?

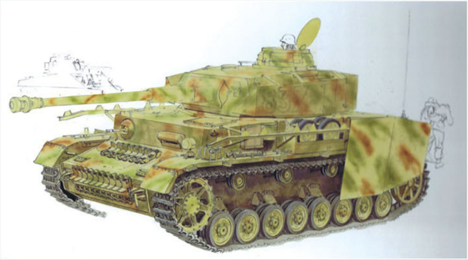
Ron: *As might be expected, good box art has always been a draw to me but I never actually thought that I would do it for a living. I have already mentioned Leynnwood and his Revell box art and Takani's Tamiya work. Tamiya*



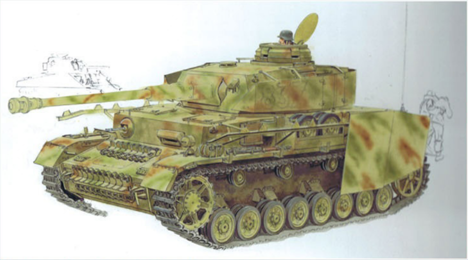
The outline of the Panzer IV is masked and the disruptive pattern of Red Brown and Dark Green are sprayed with an airbrush.



The basic camouflage pattern is complete. Note how thin the paint is – we can still clearly see the outline details from the original drawing.



Tracks and tyres are painted in by brush.



More details are coloured, including the Commander poking out of the turret.

has employed many illustrators but I have always appreciated the figure work of Masami Onishi. The Tamiya white box art is admirable in its detail although it would be better if the colour was more authentic. I also enjoy the art of Kurokawa & Saski on AFV Club boxes. A real standout these days is Andrei Karachtchouk whose work for several East European companies is particularly appealing.

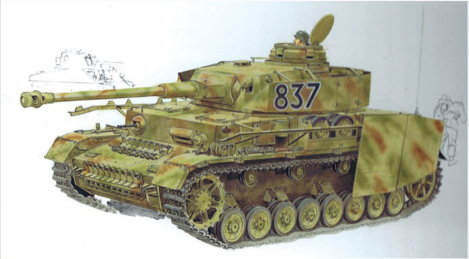
Luke: Being a modeller as well as an artist, what are your thoughts on firstly box top illustration and the state of the hobby in general?

Ron: *I have been involved in the 1:35 hobby for more than 40 years. During that time I have seen some marvellous box art and some that was rather less so. The feedback that I have received over the years certainly tells me that good box art is a positive selling feature. I have also heard others say that they have no interest in box art. Hopefully they will remain in the minority. The hobby itself has never had so much diversity. When I began in this hobby I was content with a kit that came close and was happy to convert or scratch build whatever I really wanted to model. My scratch built Humber Scout Car (c.1979) is now been rendered obsolete (as are so many other projects). I dare say that some of us old hands might even say that current day modellers are spoiled for choice.*

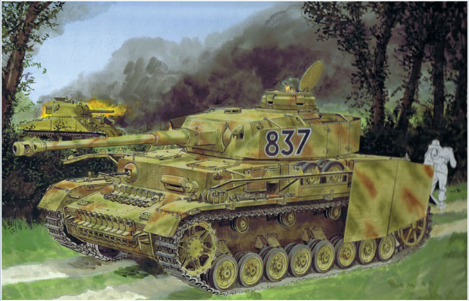
Luke: Indeed, we are spoilt for choice. One last question. What plastic kit would you like to see produced?

Ron: *I have to admit that many of the recent kit releases are subjects that I thought would never been seen in plastic and I am grateful that so many are items that I have interests in building. Still, I am curious as to why there hasn't been a fresh version of the Universal Carrier yet. I'd buy one!*

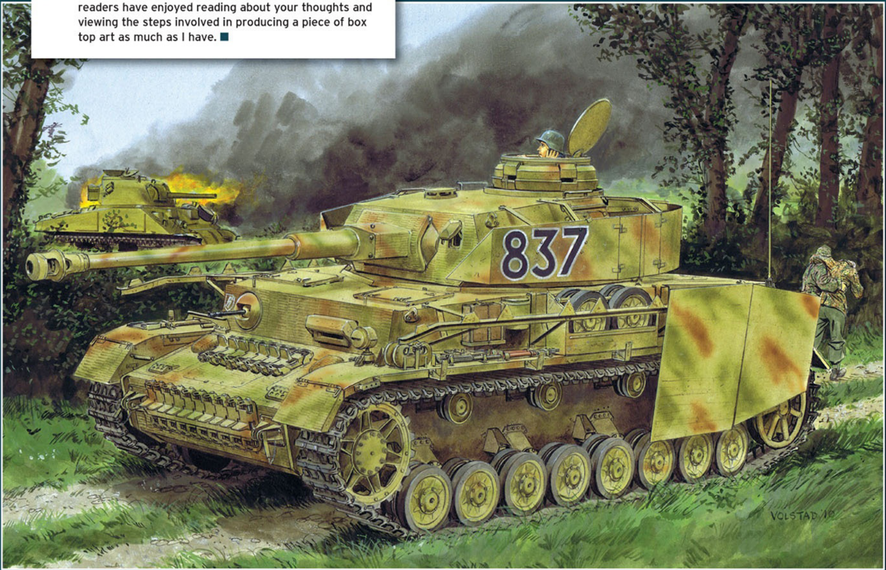
Luke: Ron, thanks so much for your time. I am sure our readers have enjoyed reading about your thoughts and viewing the steps involved in producing a piece of box top art as much as I have. ■



Details such as the vehicle number plus additional shading give the illustration more depth.



Background colours are added to offer a context for our subject vehicle.



Ground and grass textures, figures and more are finished now in the completed scene.

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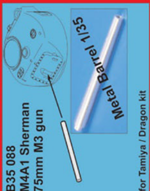
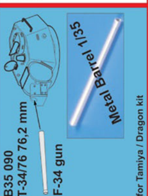
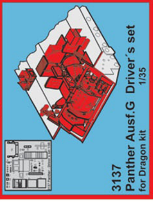
75mm M3 gun
for Tamiya / Dragon kit



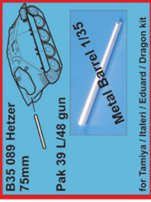
B35 090
T-34/76 76,2 mm
F-34 gun
for Tamiya / Dragon kit



3137
Panther Ausf.G Driver's set 1/35
for Dragon kit



B35 089 Hetzer
75mm
Pak 39 L/48 gun
for Tamiya / Italeri / Eduard / Dragon kit



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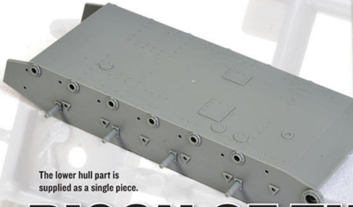


The lower hull part is supplied as a single piece.

1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
Bison II 15cm s.IG 33 (Sfl.) auf Pz.Kpfw.II
DRAGON
Smart Kit

BISON OF THE DESERT

Bill Wiseman is impressed with Dragon's 1:35 scale Bison II 15cm (Sfl.) auf Pz.Kpfw. II.

Development for the Bison II started in 1940 and after successful firing tests, a series of twelve trial vehicles was produced. Designed on a lengthened Panzer II chassis, these vehicles took part in the campaigns in Tobruk and Tunisia, where all were lost due to enemy action and breakdowns.

The kit comes jam packed with the usual high quality mouldings, etched brass, and a turned metal barrel that features very subtle rifling. The box art by Ron Volstad is a very useful reference in its own right, which is a good thing as there's not a lot of information around for this vehicle. The kit checks out well against the images in Rommel's Funnies, and other photos collected over the years, but I didn't have any scale plans to check against (if there are any).

The kit is built in sub-sections, with all the major components added at the end to allow the gun to connect to the firewall. This should make painting a breeze.

Assembly starts with the suspension, but it is probably wiser to add the front and rear panels (parts P30 and M31) to allow easier handling of the kit. The road wheels feature manufacturer's markings, and are newly tooled for this kit. The suspension units (one piece for your modelling pleasure) locate positively and firmly, making alignment a doddle. Just watch out for the instructions as they have the part numbers for port and starboard mixed up, but as these will only fit one way so you shouldn't have any problems with this.

Where you *will* have problems is fitting the tracks. Dragon has corrected the sprockets, which now have 26 teeth, but alas failed to correct the pitch of the tracks, which were designed for the inaccurate 25-tooth units supplied in their previous kit of the Panzer II. There's no real easy fix for this. You could fit a 25-tooth sprocket if you have the older kit, therefore allowing the kit tracks to be used. Another option is to remove the sprocket teeth, fit the tracks, and then put the teeth back (reminds me of my grandparents), which would be tricky. Aftermarket tracks are available, and Friul have made a set especially for this model, but it would be a much better idea if Dragon were to fix this so modellers can build the kit as supplied.

Moving on to the interior, you need to watch the placement of parts M6, M7, M35, and M36, as these need to have a backwards rake. There's an inset image that shows this, but it's easy to make a mistake if you're not careful. There is no tread pattern on the floor of the fighting compartment, but without adequate references it is hard to determine what was there. The rest of this area is taken up with seating, and a few other fittings. The sidewalls (P 43 and P10) are fitted with ammo, radios and other bits, making this area very busy looking.

The engine compartment is a very easy build, assembling without any difficulty. You have the option of using photo-etched parts for the clasps on the tool box, or just leaving the detail as moulded. The etch will look better though, as it's more complete. The jerry cans are very nicely detailed and the etched racks fit like a glove. You may have to do a bit of a search to find out how to wire up the radio sets, as these would benefit from this detail, being an open topped vehicle.

The gun is a work of art, bristling with surface detail. You have the choice of direct fire (K2), or indirect fire (K3) sights, which is a nice touch. Take care when assembling the gun, as it's made up from a lot off parts, some of which can be made to move, which would allow a certain degree of elevation. The cradle is a multi-part affair, and only requires a minimum of clean up when assembled. When complete, the gun can be fitted, along with the engine compartment, and that's it.

In spite of the track problem, this is a great kit to build, and will make fans of the desert war very happy. There is scope for the aftermarket producers to come up with some etch and the like, which is bound to happen, but this is one lily that you can gild to your heart's content.

Highly Recommended. ■

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample
www.hobbyco.net

The lovely rifled turned metal barrel.

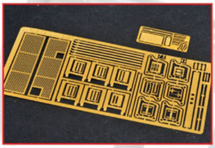
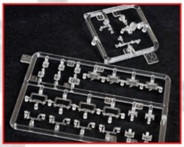
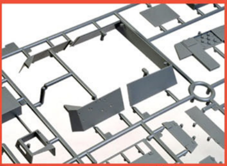


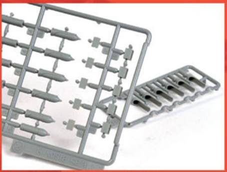
Photo-etched brass adds detail and finesse.



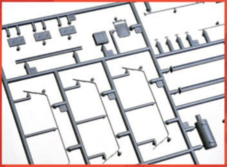
Clear sprues.



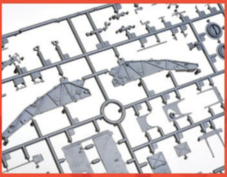
Sone of the superstructure parts – suitably thin.



Plenty of shells and stowage are included.



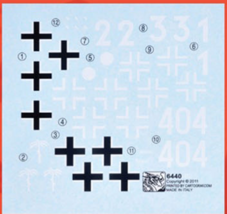
Fine parts are beautifully moulded.



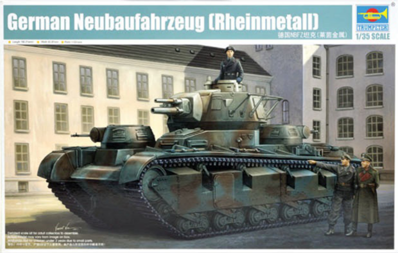
Some of the gun parts on the sprues.

DRAGON
Magic Track

The individual Magic Track links are designed for the old 25-tooth drive sprocket.



Decals are printed by Cartograf.



Bill Wiseman takes a look at the latest entry in the widening field of 1:35 scale Neubaufahrzeug kits, this time from Trumpeter.

TRUMPY'S TRIPLE TURRETTED TREAT

Developed in the 1930s and designed as part of the heavy tank program, the Neubaufahrzeug was initially code named "Grosstractor" to avoid any issues with the Versailles treaty. The multi turreted design was not dissimilar to the Russian T-28 and T-35 series vehicles. Due to the complex nature of construction and some reliability problems, the project was eventually dropped after the construction of five vehicles. These featured in the landings at Oslo as part of the then German propaganda machine.

For a long while, the only available kit of this vehicle was a resin version, which was very nice for its day, but also quite expensive. Fast forward a few years and we now have multiple offerings from a few different manufacturers. This kit from Trumpeter (their second of the Neubaufahrzeug kits) represents the first version after being equipped with the turret mounted frame aerial. The kit comes well packed, with some of the smaller pieces protected from damage by foam wrapping. All parts were very cleanly produced with very few knockout marks to contend with, and easy to follow instructions. There are two turned barrels, a couple of etched frets, a multitude of plastic, but no decals. The kit matches the dimensions in the Tank Power book quite well, but differs from those supplied in Panzer Tracts. Some of the assembly sequences can be skipped to make things a bit easier (such as the hull construction and fenders), but this is up to the modeller.

The build starts with the hull. Here you can join the upper and lower hull halves prior to adding any of the kit details, as this will make it easier to clean the join between the two parts, and minimise any damage to the kit during this process. Once you're happy with the join, you can start adding the parts as per the instructions. I encountered no problems during this stage, as it's very straightforward. The wheel assemblies on the other hand are a tad fiddly - you need to take care when putting these together. It is wise to leave the assembled and cleaned parts A8 and A7 free to move, as well as parts A11 and A5, as this will ensure that the wheel mounts can be aligned correctly on the sponson mounts, parts E1 and E27. The assembled trucks should sit straight, but the Trumpeter kit depicts these on an angle, which is a bit odd. It doesn't affect the sit of the kit, but looks wrong according to photos.

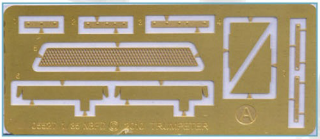
The tracks come next, and these are highly reminiscent of Model Kasten, being assembled with pins to allow them to remain workable. There's 129 links per side, and this is where you really do need to take care, as the assembled track runs are very fragile due to the supplied pins being a bit too short to allow a better fit. After cleaning up the links from the sprues (there's five attachment points per link, so this can take a while), slip the links into the jig that has been supplied, and add the track pins, making sure these are inserted firmly to ensure a good fit. Make sure you don't mix up the pins, as these are essentially handed. Once you've assembled the tracks, you can add them to the kit and paint them in situ if you wish.

The rest of the kit is mainly taken up with the turret assemblies and these go together very quickly. There are some detail issues here, with the smaller turrets not quite matching photos or plans, but still look very nice when completed. The main turret is missing some nuts and bolts and the weld detail is a bit restrained, but with the added areal mount certainly looks interesting. The guns are supplied in both plastic as well as turned brass, but are flush mounted to the mantlet and not recessed. The machine gun is devoid of detail, and is best replaced with a new one from the spares box.

The fenders are built up complete and added to the kit as the last stage of assembly. These could be left off till after painting, which would facilitate the painting and weathering of the upper track runs.

Whilst there may be a few kits of this vehicle now on the market, this variant from Trumpeter is a welcome addition to the range, and will look good in any collection.

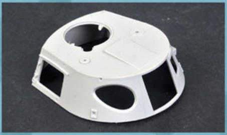
Highly Recommended. ■


One of the two photo-etched frets.

Thanks to J.B. Wholesalers for the sample
www.jbwholesalers.com.au
Trumpeter kits are distributed in the UK by Pocketbond

The large one-piece upper hull moulding

The lower hull is moulded as one piece too.


The upper section of the main turret.

Two turned brass barrels are included.

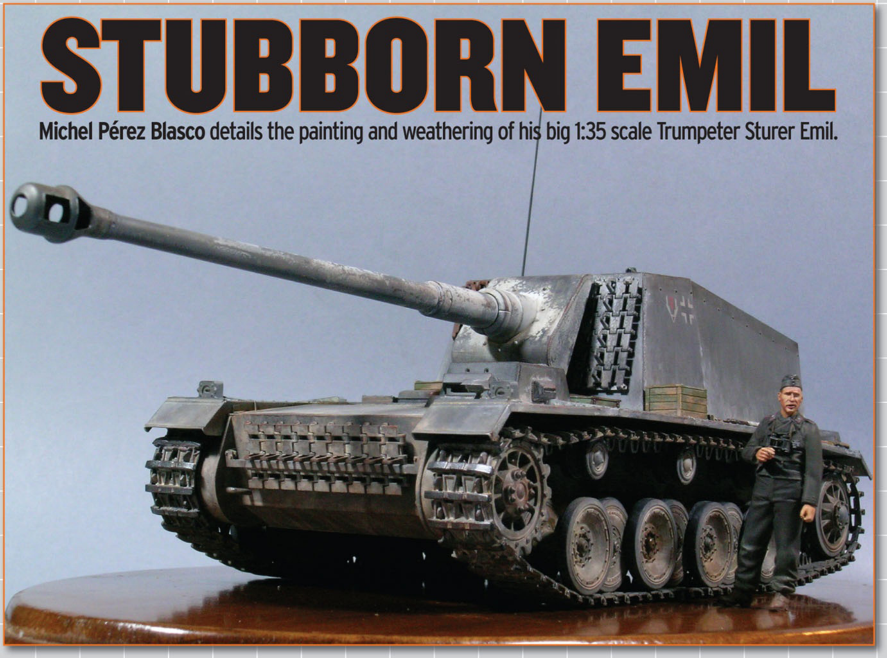
Two smaller turrets are supplied too.

Moulding is crisp and clean.

Trumpeter's Kasten-clone track elements. Plastic pins permit the tracks to remain moveable after assembly.

STUBBORN EMIL

Michel Pérez Blasco details the painting and weathering of his big 1:35 scale Trumpeter Sturer Emil.



The sudden and unwelcome appearance of the T-34 and KV tanks on the Eastern Front made it clear that the Germans needed to field more powerful weapons.

One of the stopgap solutions was the development of the 12.8cm Selbstfahrlafette L/61 (Panzerselbstfahrlafette V) "Sturer Emil" self-propelled gun between August of 1941 and March of 1942. Only two examples of the Sturer Emil were finished, using the chassis of the prototypes of the successor of the Panzer IV, the VK 3001 (H). In order to accommodate the huge Pak L/61 128 mm antitank gun developed by Rheinmetall Borsig, the chassis had to be lengthened and one more wheel station was added to the running gear. The two vehicles were tested on the Eastern Front in mid 1943 showing a good ballistic performance. However, other shortcomings such as an underpowered engine, led to the cancellation of the project in favour of the Tiger I.

Of the two Panzerjäger attached to the 521 schwere Panzerjäger Abteilung, one was destroyed in combat, while the other "Sturer" was captured by the Soviets and is currently displayed in the Kubinka museum.

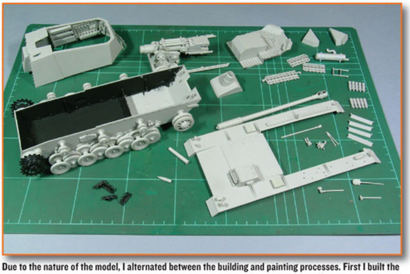
TRUMPETER'S 1:35 STURER EMIL

In my opinion, Trumpeter's 1:35 scale Sturer Emil is a good kit. Beyond millimetre accuracy, detail is sharp, the fit of the parts is good and the layout of the parts is well thought out, which allows a logical sequence of painting the different subassemblies, an important attribute for open topped vehicles. Flash is minimal and the ejector pin marks are located in hidden places. On the other hand, the vinyl tracks are quite poor.

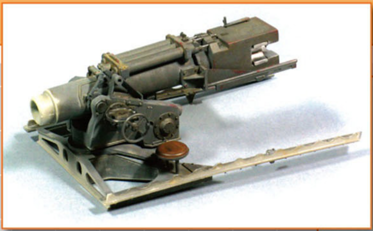
ASSEMBLY

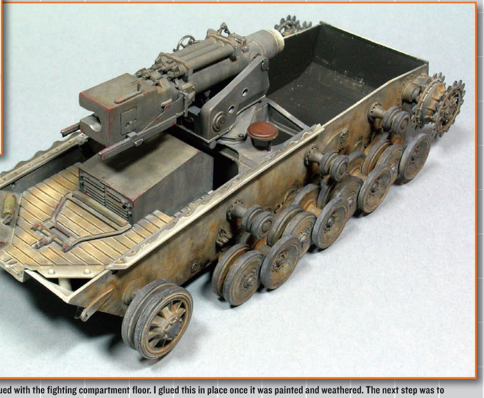
I built the kit almost straight from the box. The only additions were the replacement of the vinyl tracks with individual links available from HobbyBoss, photo-etched tool clamps from Voyager and some on vehicle equipment from Plus Models. ■

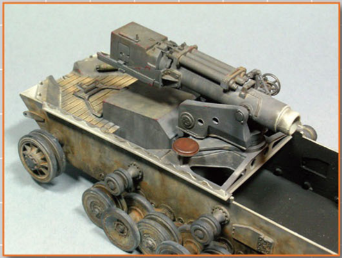
Interior



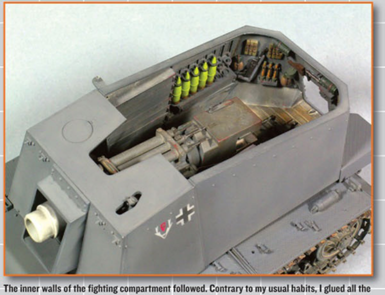
Due to the nature of the model, I alternated between the building and painting processes. First I built the lower hull and running gear minus the tracks and painted all the interior that could (but should not) be seen once the model is completed in black.



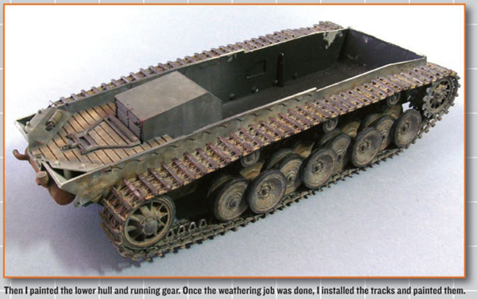




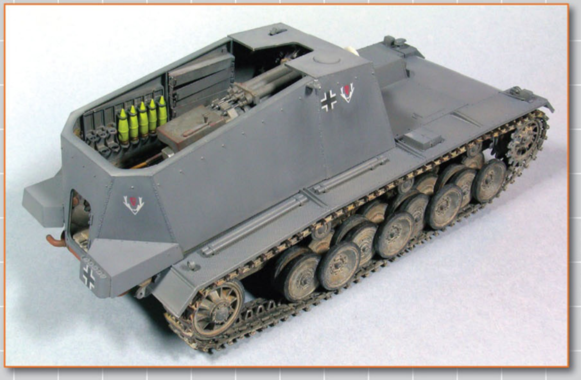
Next I continued with the fighting compartment floor. I glued this in place once it was painted and weathered. The next step was to build the internal side of the gun and its supporting structure, followed by its painting. I did not glue this subassembly in place yet.



The inner walls of the fighting compartment followed. Contrary to my usual habits, I glued all the small parts there (hand grenades, canteens, gasmask containers etc) and painted them "in situ", this task turning out less difficult than I expected. I only painted the ammo rounds separately, which I installed later.



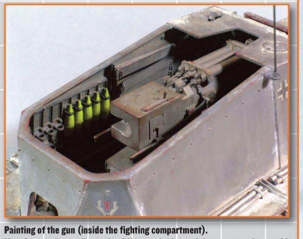
Then I painted the lower hull and running gear. Once the weathering job was done, I installed the tracks and painted them.



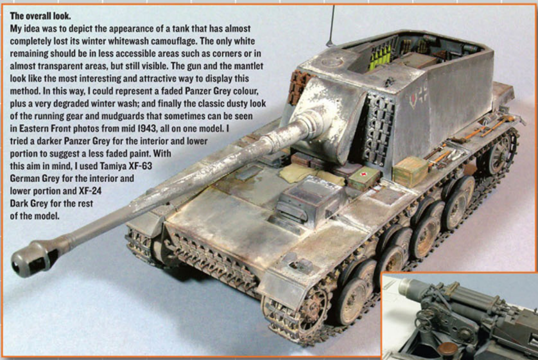
Now I applied the base coat to the glacis and outer walls of the fighting compartment and glued them in place. The model was now ready for the extensive weathering process.

Painting

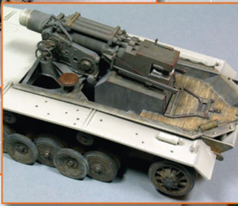
Instead of a "classical" description of the painting steps and the techniques I implemented in this model, I am going to try to describe my initial vision and how I tried to help it materialise.



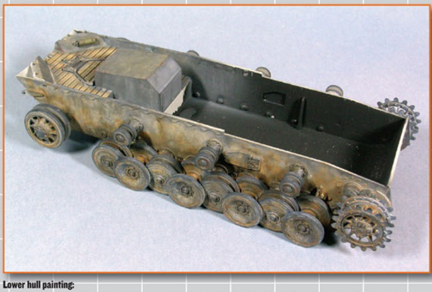
Painting of the gun (inside the fighting compartment).
Here I wanted to replicate the different shades and the contrast that could be found in this area – some parts very hard worn, others barely dirty, a lighter colour in the upper area more exposed to the light of the sun and darker in the lower and less exposed zones. The contrast caused by the red primer chips in the Panzer Grey would add more interest too. The technique involves an almost transparent layer of white oil paint, complemented later with others made with sepia and burn umber oil paint, all of them from Titán, a local brand of artist's paints.



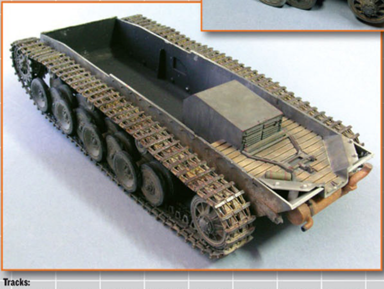
The overall look.
My idea was to depict the appearance of a tank that has almost completely lost its winter whitewash camouflage. The only white remaining should be in less accessible areas such as corners or in almost transparent areas, but still visible. The gun and the mantlet look like the most interesting and attractive way to display this method. In this way, I could represent a faded Panzer Grey colour, plus a very degraded winter wash; and finally the classic dusty look of the running gear and mudguards that sometimes can be seen in Eastern Front photos from mid 1943, all on one model. I tried a darker Panzer Grey for the interior and lower portion to suggest a less faded paint. With this aim in mind, I used Tamiya XF-63 German Grey for the interior and lower portion and XF-24 Dark Grey for the rest of the model.



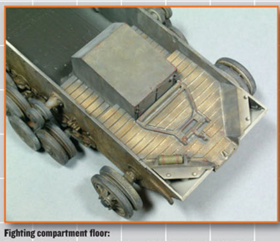
In other areas I drew small dirty stains with heavily diluted Vallejo Model Color (MC) Chocolate Brown 872, while the chips were painted with Red 926.



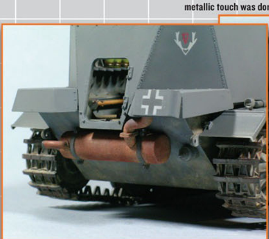
Lower hull painting:
I applied a treatment of oils over the XF-63 German Grey. I started with white, followed by Naples Yellow, Yellow Ochre, Natural Sienna, Transparent Earth, Raw Umber and Sepia (T), applied in sequence from the lighter toward the darker. The method of applications was diverse: washes, filters, splashes, transparencies. The goal was to create random dirty stains to make these surfaces look filthy but still allowing the panzer grey base to be seen.



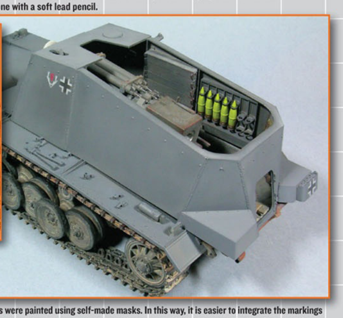
Tracks:
These were painted mainly with acrylics. The base coat is Vallejo Panzer Aces Track Primer 304. Over this base I applied some washes with several shades of sand and flesh tones (Yellow Brown 912, Desert Yellow 977, Matt Flesh 018, Middle Flesh 860 and Dark Flesh 927) all of them from the Vallejo Model Color range to represent the dust and earth stuck to the tracks. Then a drybrushed German Red Light 307 and Dark Rust 302 (PA) to avoid hiding the underlying effects. The last metallic touch was done with a soft lead pencil.



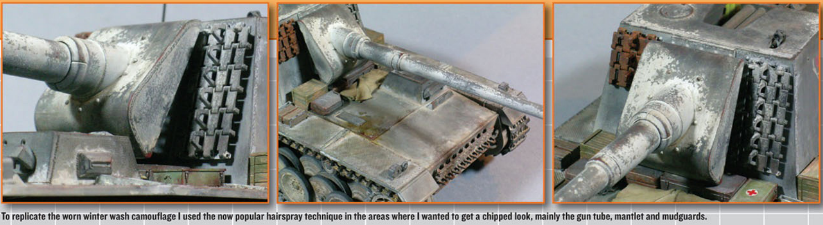
Fighting compartment floor:
This was formed by wooden planks, which I firstly painted in Tamiya XF-63 German Grey then drybrushed with Vallejo Light Brown 929 and Flesh Base 815 (MC), letting the grey only appear in the less exposed areas. Finally, I applied a filter with transparent Rust Oil (T) to the lighter areas.



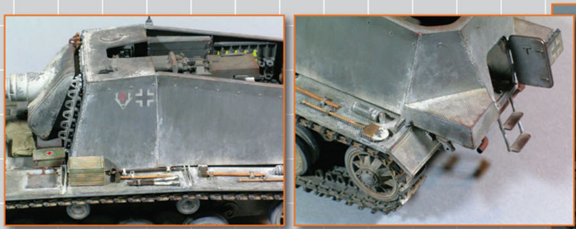
Exhaust:
The exhaust was entirely painted with non-diluted acrylics. I tapped onto the surface the following colours with a hard bristle brush, from darker to lighter: Cadmium Burnt Red 814 (MC), Light Rust 301, Yellow Rust 303 (PA), Light Cadmium Red 910 (MC).



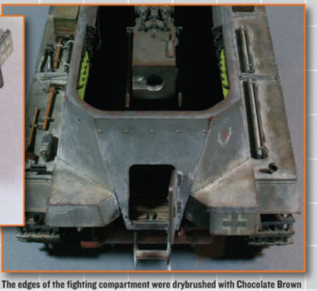
The markings were painted using self-made masks. In this way, it is easier to integrate the markings as part of the overall painting processes, something more difficult if waterslide decals are used.



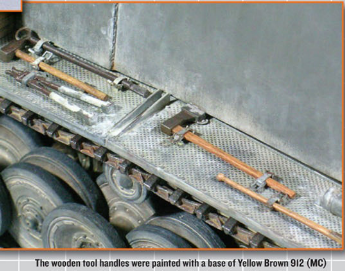
To replicate the worn winter wash camouflage I used the now popular hairspray technique in the areas where I wanted to get a chipped look, mainly the gun tube, mantlet and mudguards.



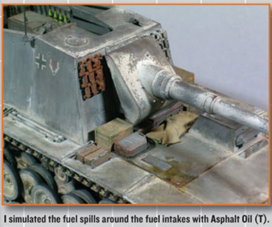
On the other hand, in the areas where I looked for a more subtly faded look such as the sidewalls, I used both acrylic white 951 (MC) and White oil (T), both heavily diluted and using them as filters and washes.



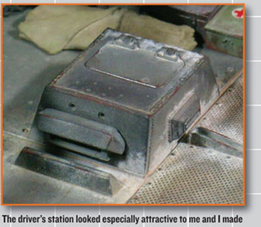
The edges of the fighting compartment were drybrushed with Chocolate Brown 872 (MC) in order to replicate the dirtiness caused by the handling of the crew. At the extreme edges, I drybrushed Red 926 (MC) and applied graphite.



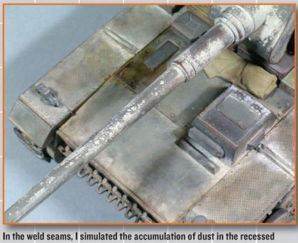
The wooden tool handles were painted with a base of Yellow Brown 912 (MC) and Matt Brown 984 for the woodgrain. Finally, a filter of Burnt Sienna oil paint was applied. The metallic parts received a base of Black Red 859 (MC), then were rubbed with graphite and finally retouched with a bit of Transparent Rust oil paint (T).



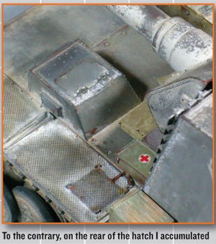
I simulated the fuel spills around the fuel intakes with Asphalt Oil (T). This colour, used in different dilutions, allows representing a variety of effects.



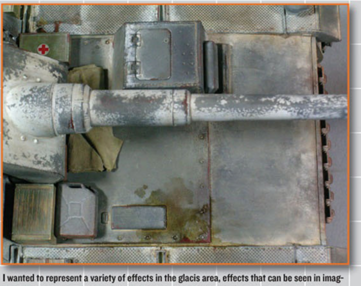
The driver's station looked especially attractive to me and I made a special effort to achieve a realistic and natural finish there, trying to achieve different shades of grey. The area worn by the driver's arms when leaning out of the hatch results a shinier and darker look, achieved by dry brushing German Grey 995 (MC).



In the weld seams, I simulated the accumulation of dust in the recessed zones with a very localised yellow Naples oil (T) wash.



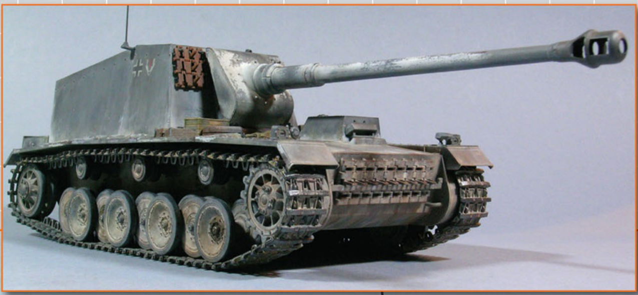
To the contrary, on the rear of the hatch I accumulated white as the remnants of winter camouflage, this time with acrylic White 951 (MC). On the edges, once more the red primer, painted with Red 926 (MC), is visible.



I wanted to represent a variety of effects in the glacis area, effects that can be seen in images of real vehicles. Besides the remains of the winter wash camouflage, I painted stubborn dirt, scratches, chipping and even polished metal. For the stains I used very diluted acrylics with two or three variations of German Grey 995 (MC). The technique consists of painting random spots, varying in shape and intensity, playing with the dilution of the paint. Then I applied some filters with White, Naples Yellow, Sepia and Burnt Umber oils (T).

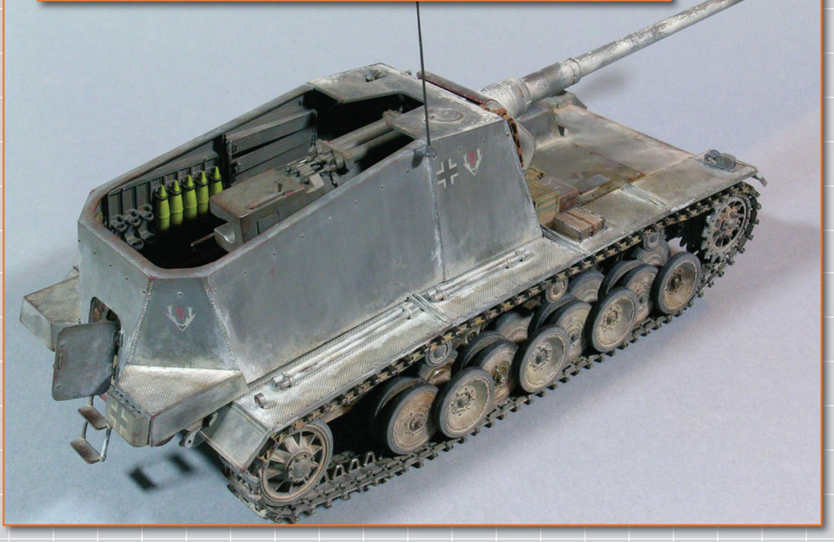
The scratches were made by simply scratching the paint carefully with a used blade.

The figure is a Tristar item, with the head and hands replaced with others of better quality. It was painted with Vallejo Model Color acrylics using the concept of the zenithal light. I think that it is a good idea to include figures with our AFV models, as they offer a size comparison for these behemoths.



This work is dedicated to my good friend Pepe Oller.

Trumpeter kits are distributed in the UK by Pocketbond



Diary Dates

To have your event included on this page, send your details to:
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Tel:01525 222573•Fax:01525 222574•Email:editor@modelmilitary.com

April 14th
POOLE VIKINGS MODEL CLUB ANNUAL SHOW
Saturday 14 April 2012, Parkstone Grammar School, Open 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
One of the best scale plastic model shows in the South of England! Over 50 exhibitors, dioramas and displays from visiting clubs – see amazing scale models of planes, armour and science - fiction subjects. Over 30 scale model retailers, selling kits, accessories and books - get yourself a bargain! Make and Take event - for children and beginners. Glue, paint and take away a scale plastic model - materials and guidance free of charge. Tombola / Refreshments and other attractions on the day.
Admission:- Adult £3.25 Child / OAP £1.75 Family £7.00
For Further Details, Make & Take bookings and trade enquiries: Contact Sue Meadowcroft 07522 529867
Venue: Parkstone Grammar School Sopers Lane BH17 7EP

April 14th
SWORD AND LANCE 2012
Saturday 14th April: Sword & Lance 2012 presented by Darlington Military Modelling Society at the New Venue of Darlington College, Haughton Road, Darlington DL1 1DR. Doors open 10 am to 4.30 pm.
Model and Militaria displays, Demonstrations, Trade stands and Open Model Competition. Parent & Child modelling sessions. Hot and cold refreshments also available
Roddy MacDougall, leading pattern maker for Dragon Models' Zimmerit, will be showing how to obtain a realistic Zimmerit finish.
Admission £2.50 Adults, £1.00 Children & Concessions,
For further details, contact: Colin Holmes, 127 Dinsdale Crescent, Darlington, Co., Durham, DL1 1EZ. Tel. 01325 489801 or by e-mail on c20hms@gmail.com

April 20th-22nd
IPMS SPACE COAST FLORIDA – MODEFEST
IPMS Space Coast will host a Modelfest and contest from April 20-22 2012 at the International Pal Resort, 1300 N Atlantic Ave., Cocoa Beach FL. For special guest rates call 321-783-2271, code: SCM. For contest information please contact Bob Taylor, 321-676-1472 between 10:00am and 8:00pm, or email BHT936@aol.com
Vendor contact is Carl Weaver, 321-431-5536 between 10:00am and 8:00pm, or email cweaver@cfl.rr.com
Visit our website at: www.ipmsspacecoast.com

April 28th
Plymouth Scale Model show.
The Plymouth Scale Model Show will be held on Saturday 28th April at the Guildhall from 10:00 am – 4:30 pm.
The show will include displays commemorating the Falklands 30th Anniversary.
Food will be available and a raffle held during the event.
Further details from Dave Watson 01752 518287, email potandjoe@blueyonder.co.uk

April 29th
9th Modellbaufreunde Siegen Model Show.
The 9th Modellbaufreunde Siegen Model Show will be held on 29 April 2012 at the Festival Hall in Wilnsdorf, Germany.
For more information, please email www.modellbaufreunde-siegen.de

April 29th
MODEL FORCE 2012
Moveleo Leopoldsburg will be presenting Model Force 2012 on Sunday 29 April 2012 Iat the "Technisch Instituut Don Bosco" school complex, Don Boscostraat 6, in the centre of Helchteren, Belgium. The show will be open from 10.00 till 17:00 and will feature club displays, traders, kid's corner, an open modelLing contest, food and refreshments. Entrance is free.
More information can be found at modelforce.moveleo.be or modelforce@moveleo.be

May 20th
RAF Museum Hendon Model Show
The date for the next Hendon Model Show has been fixed for Sunday 20 May 2012 from 10 am to 6 pm. The show will be held at the Royal Air Force Museum, Grahame Park Way, London, NW9 5LL.
This is the show's fourth year and we have been pleased to see consistently increasing numbers of visitors from both the modelling community and general public.
We are now opening booking for traders and clubs. To register your club please email hendonmodelshow@yahoo.co.uk
For more information, please visit www.rafmuseum.org/whatson

June 2nd
TORBAY MILITARY MODELLING SOCIETY MODEL SHOW 2012
With IPMS TORBAY& SOUTH DEVON
Torquay Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay TQ1 3RD
Special competition theme this year Suez 1956. Club & Trade Stands. Competition, Refreshments. 9.30am to 4 pm
www.torbay-ipms.org.uk
Contact Paul Farrar: paulfarrar@live.co.uk

June 3rd
NORTHERN SCALE MODEL SHOW
The Northern Scale Model Show will be held on Sunday 3 June 2012 at Temple Park Leisure centre in South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE34 8QN.
Organised by Tyneside IPMS, this is one of the North of England's biggest and best model shows. One huge open hall full of displays, traders and open competitions.
£3.75 Adults, £2.00 Children and Concession.
Booking details: Graham Trotter 07876441701

June 17th
MAFVA NATIONALS 2012
The date has been determined for the vehicle show and thus the MAFVA nationals for next year: Sunday June 17th 2012 (Father's day). And more good news, we appear to have a marquee as well! More information will be available in coming issues.

June 23rd
Amay Modèles Club 19th Modelling Day.
On 23 June 2012, Amay Modèles Club presents its 19th Modelling Day (exhibition and swap meet) at the IPES Huy, 6 Avenue Delchambre, B-4500 Huy (Belgium).
For further information, please contact Michel Calluy, 13 Thier du Moulin, B-4530 Villers-le-Bouillet (B). tel : 00 32 85 231086
e-mail michel.calluy@skynet.be
All the details are available on our AMC Web site www.amaymodelesclub.org

July 7th-8th
FIGURE WORLD 2012
7th July 2012 SHOW
8th July PAINTATHON
The Great Hall, Oundle School, Oundle, PE8 4GH
The figure modelling show of the UK. If you are a figure modeller, don't miss out on the only event in the UK that has been put on to meet your needs.
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www.tbfigureworld.co.uk
www.tbforum.co.uk

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Desert War
Zenith Transformation Set
PROFESSIONAL AIRBRUSH PAINT SET BY JOSÉ BRITO
INCLUDES STEP BY STEP PAINTING INSTRUCTIONS
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Desert War - Zenith Transformation Set
PROFESSIONAL AIRBRUSH PAINT SET WITH STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

VALLEJO

DESERT WAR ZENITH TRANSFORMATION SET
PROFESSIONAL AIRBRUSH PAINT SET BY JOSE BRITO
ITEM NO. 71153

Anyone who has read a few issues of Model Military International magazine will be familiar with the prolific Portuguese modeller, Jose Brito. We have been fortunate to feature many of Jose's articles in our magazine, and now he is providing the opportunity for other modellers to share the techniques used for painting his modern desert camouflaged vehicles.

Vallejo has consulted with Jose Brito and released an all-in-one primer, painting and weathering package named "Desert War Zenith Transformation Set".

This set provides the following products:

- One Primer: 70601 Grey 17ml
- Six Vallejo Model Air Paints: 71215 1st Shadow 17ml; 71216 2nd Shadow 17ml; 71217 Base 17ml; 71218 1st Light 17ml; 71219 2nd Light 17ml; 71220 Bright 17ml
- Two Pigments: 73104 Light Sienna 30ml; 73109 Natural Umber 30ml
- Two Auxiliary Products: 70522 Satin Varnish; 70596 Glaze Medium
- One Toray Chisel-Ended Dry Brush
- One Plastic Palette

In addition to the paints and finishing products, Jose supplies a ten-step illustrated guide to applying the Zenith Transformation technique to desert camouflaged vehicles. The written directions are offered in English, Spanish, German and Portuguese.

The first step is several thin coats of primer. This is followed by two shading coats, then the base colour. Three progressively paler shades follow as highlights, then the model is sealed with satin varnish. The model is now weathered with wet or dry pigments, fixed in place with Vallejo's Medium Glaze.

The bottles of paint are unambiguously labelled in line with the instructions – 1st Shadow, 2nd Shadow, Base etc – so the application sequence should be pretty foolproof.

This is a nice package and will be particularly useful for modellers who would like to try some new painting and weathering techniques. The one-stop nature of this set is welcome, and the documentation of the techniques in words and colour photographs is very helpful.

Highly Recommended

Thanks to Vallejo for the sample

Vallejo products are available in the UK from Creative Models Limited
www.creativemodels.co.uk

Brett Green

Desert War
Zenith Transformation Set

DIOPARK
DP35007
Japanese Civilian Motorcycle
C100 Mod.1958
2 Kits In 1 Box
DIOPARK
Japanese Civilian Motorcycle
C100 Mod.1958
Bonus : Cigarette ,lighter, Knapsack, Camera body and Lens

DIOPARK

1:35 SCALE
JAPANESE CIVILIAN MOTORCYCLE C100 MOD.1958
ITEM NO. DP3507

Although this new kit from Diopark makes no mention of the Honda brand, the kit represents the Honda Super Club that made its world debut in 1958, a mere 10 years after the establishment of Honda Motor Co. At the time, Honda made famous the slogan "You meet the nicest people on a Honda". The motorcycle made an instant impression and effectively put the company on the world stage. Various models have evolved from it. As a side note, this very kit was delivered to me via the postman riding on a variation of this original bike.

The small Japanese manufacturer Diopark has previously consigned themselves to diorama accessories (as the name implies) and this is their first full kit of a motorcycle.

The kit is presented in a standard side-opening box with a rather plain box top illustration. The instructions are of a traditional nature and are both concise and easy to follow. They cover 13 construction sequences.

Two full kits are included with one motorcycle devoted to each of the two sprues provided. The moulding of the parts is first rate and attention to detail is excellent. Take for example the wheel and tyre assembly. Each tyre has three parts and comes with a centre section onto which two photo etch spokes are placed and these are in turn sandwiched between the outer tyre mouldings. The result is a first class rendition of a spoked motorcycle wheel. Although the system is by far the best approach to this tricky problem, I would have liked the photo etch spoke to be a little finer.

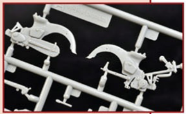
The rest of the kit is made up of rear frame, front forks and either a tandem or single seat configuration. Some rather nice accessories are included on each sprue. They are an "old style" SLR camera (with two lens options) a camera bag, a Zippo style lighter and two packets of cigarettes (with Camel and Lucky Strike decals).

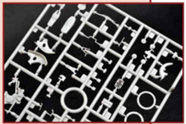
The model lends itself to a hundred and one applications. Basically, this motorcycle could be used in any diorama from 1959 to around 1980 so widespread was their use. It is almost certain that they were lurking somewhere in every major trouble spot during that time frame. I like this kit. It is unusual and very well done.

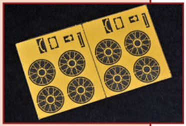
Highly Recommended.

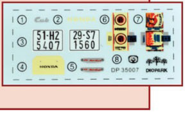
Thanks to M.S. Models for the review sample
msmodels.co.jp/

Luke Pitt





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Book Reviews

Dick Taylor
INTO THE VALLY
THE VALENTINE TANK AND DERIVATIVES 1938 – 1960
Green Series No 4111
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INTO THE VALLEY – THE VALENTINE TANK AND DERIVATIVES 1938-1960

BY DICK TAYLOR
ISBN: 978-83-61421-36-8
MMP BOOKS

Although we modellers are currently blessed with not just one, but two separate families of 1:35 scale Valentine kits - MiniArt and AFV Club - references are still hardly thick on the ground.

MMP Books has addressed this shortage with the latest in their expanding range of military titles, “Into the Valley – The Valentine Tank and Derivatives 1938-1960” by Dick Taylor.

The Valentine was the only pre-war British design to remain in service until the end of hostilities in 1945 and was produced in greater numbers than any other. More than 8,000 were eventually manufactured.

Although overshadowed by many other types, the Valentine saw active and important service with the British and Soviet armies, as well as Commonwealth forces. The gun tank was obsolescent before the end of the Second World War, but specialised variants such as bridge layers and self-propelled guns soldiered on until as late as 1960.

Dick Taylor’s latest MMP book is A4 in format, with 192 high quality glossy pages between its soft covers, 32 of those in full colour. The text discusses the design, development production and operations of the Valentine tank and its many derivations.

The book is divided into eight chapters:

1. Design, Development and Production
2. Technical Description
3. Description of Gun Tank Marks
4. Operational Use
5. Painting and Markings
6. Overseas Service
7. Variants
8. Walkaround

The eight main chapters are followed by a conclusion, references and a seven page section of attractive colour plates.

The book is profusely illustrated throughout with wartime photos, scrap view drawings and scale plans. The plans are particularly helpful for identifying the differences between the variants and the specialised versions. The photos show an enormous variety of vehicles in all sorts of conditions and service. It is a shame that some of the wartime photos are very dark and contrasty, but even these are still interesting. Captions are detailed and helpful, as we have come to expect from MMP’s Green series in general and Dick Taylor in particular.

There is a particularly good series of photos of Valentines in New Zealand service, courtesy of Jeff Plowman.

The colour diagrams of camouflage patterns include a top and a port side view. It might have been nice to have included front, rear and starboard views too.

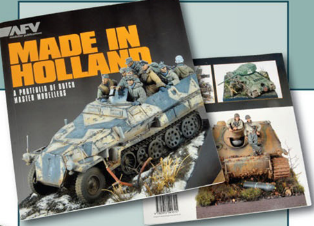
MMP’s growing Green Series of military vehicle books is proving to be a valuable resource, and Dick Taylor is proving himself to be a champion of British tank history as well as camouflage and markings.

Although “Into the Valley” is not specifically a modelling book, its useful blend of history, photo coverage, plans, drawings and profiles make it an ideal source of reference information and inspiration for modellers.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to the MMP Books for the sample
www.mmpbooks.biz
Brett Green

ENGINE & TRANSMISSION



MADE IN HOLLAND

ISBN: 978-0-9555413-1-5
AFV MODELLER PUBLICATIONS

AFV Modeller Publications has just released a book showcasing the modellers on an entire nation – “Made in Holland – A Portfolio of Dutch Master Modellers”.

The book is printed on glossy, high quality stock with 170 pages in total, including the shiny soft covers.

This is essentially a visual showcase of the best military vehicle, figure and diorama modellers from the Netherands. The book features outstanding photography and high quality presentation. Each of the modellers discusses their approach to the hobby in an introductory section, then briefly describes each modelling project in beautifully illustrated chapters. The modellers present between one and seven projects each This is not a “how to” modelling guide. Almost all of the photos show overall and detail views of the completed models, vignettes and dioramas. The objective of this book is inspiration on a wholesale level, and it certainly delivers.

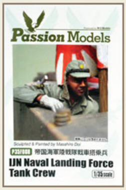
The beautiful work of Dutch modellers Axel Repping, Bas Hermsen, Eelke Warrink, Eric Vogel, Luc Klinkers, Marcel du Long, Marcel von Hobe, Marcel Zwarts, Robert Crombeecke, Roger Hurkmans, and Roy Schurgers is featured throughout.

The Foreword states that these modellers wanted to demonstrate that there was more to the Netherlands than cheese, tulips, wooden shoes and the city of Amsterdam. After you see this book, you’ll certainly add military models to the list!

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to AFV Modeller Publications for the sample www.afvmodeller.com
Brett Green

VOMAG
Sd.Kfz 251
Figure Gallery


Passion Models
Sculpted & Painted by Masahiro Doi
P35F008 帝国海軍陸戦隊戦車搭乗兵
IJN Naval Landing Force Tank Crew
1/35 scale

Passion Models
Sculpted & Painted by Masahiro Doi
P35F009 帝国海軍陸戦隊戦車クルーセット (2体)
IJN Naval Landing Force Tank Crew Set (2 fig.)
1/35 scale

Passion Models
Sculpted & Painted by Masahiro Doi
P35F006 英・大戦初期戦車兵セット(BEF) (2体)
WWII British Early Tankers(BEF)(2fig.)
1/35 scale

PASSION MODELS

1:35 SCALE

WWII JAPANESE NAVAL TANK CREW. ITEM NO. P35F008
WWII JAPANESE NAVAL TANK CREW. ITEM NO. P35F009
WWII EARLY BRITISH TANKERS. ITEM NO. P35F006

Passion Models has released two new resin figure sets sculpted by Japanese figure master Masahiro Doi. Mr. Doi has an uncanny ability to capture a certain feel in his figure sculpts and I am a great fan of his work. The Japanese tank crew for instance has been rendered in a very crisp style and in a uniform choice that has not often been depicted in 1:35 scale. The British tank crew is in typical early battle dress, which again is not often covered by manufactures.

The all important facial detail on both figure sets is handled very well and on the Japanese in particular the Asian features are rendered to a very high standard. The casting of these figures is first rate. The execution of the uniform detail and folds in the fabric are simply outstanding.

One of my pet peeves about resin figures in general is that most are labeled 1:35 but are infact 1:32 or (54mm). These figures however are true 1:35 scale. They all scale out to around 5-foot 8 or 9 inch, in the old imperial scale that makes them the average height for that time period.

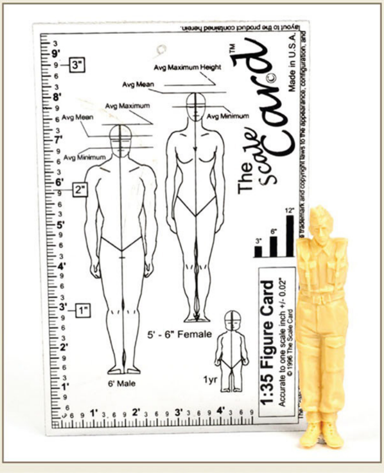
The poses of these figures lends themselves to many applications but are primarily designed in the Japanese tank crew's case for the new Dragon release of the Ka-Mi and the English tank crew for the Vulcan Models release of the Vickers Mk.VIB light tank.

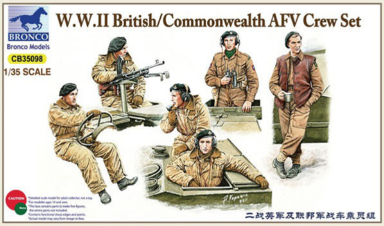
These figures are as good if not better than anything available on the market today.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to M.S. Models for the samples msmodels.co.jp

Luke Pitt


The Scale Card™
1:35 Figure Card
Accurate to one scale inch +/- 0.02"
Avg Maximum Height
Avg Mean
Avg Maximum
Avg Minimum
6' Male
5' - 6" Female
1yr
3"
2"
1"
Made in U.S.A.


W.W.II British/Commonwealth AFV Crew Set
BRONCO
Bronco Models
CB35098
1/35 SCALE
二战英军及联邦军战车乘员组

BRONCO

1:35 SCALE

WWII BRITISH/COMMONWEALTH AFV CREW SET
ITEM NO. CB 35098

For decades, the British Tank modeller was the poor cousin of both German and US subjects with little in the way of figures to accompany the few subjects available. In recent times, the genre has had a renaissance with many brands answering the long ignored call and providing a once dreamed of flood of subjects. One of the foremost companies to tackle the genre is Bronco and not only do they provide kits of tanks, artillery, and armoured cars (even bridges!), they also provide relevant figures to go with these.

One of the most requested sets since I seriously got back into AFV modelling in the late 1980s has been British or Commonwealth Tankers in the Tank Oversuit or "Pixie" suit as it is sometimes called. A few individual and themed sets of resin figures were served up over the years but Bronco have chosen to bless us with a set of six figures ideal to populate the growing family of British Vehicles of late WWII. I immediately invested in a few sets based on the strength of their earlier Arty crew release. I was not disappointed.

The set has six figures in total made up from 45 grey styrene parts with three standing and three seated. Four figures are in the fabled Pixie suit and two are in battledress with one wearing a leather jerkin and drinking the obligatory mug of tea. All have berets as headdress, three with headphones. No RAC helmets are included although many aftermarket ones are available.

The standard of moulding is excellent with well defined detail although one omission becomes immediate obvious, that is the lack of side arms with only one in a GS holster provided. The head sculpts and hands are particularly good and up to the standard we expect from resin manufacturers. Fit was near perfect for such complex poses and only the smallest amount of liquid filler will required if you assemble with care. Seams are almost nonexistent and easily cleaned up with a no 11 blade. No flash was present on any of my figures

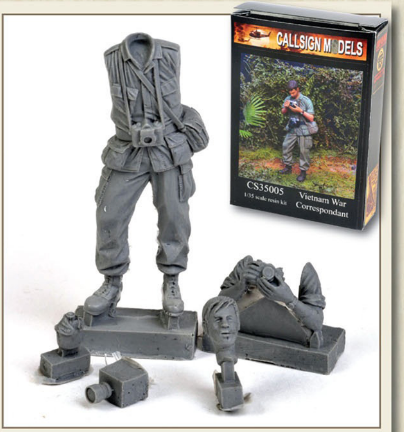
As an added bonus, the boxart has superb painted illustrations of each figure giving good colour references and usage suggestions. These are a must for the modeller of late war Commonwealth AFVs and I am certain they will be extremely popular. Bronco is to be commended on their attention to detail and their execution in providing us with these excellent figures.

I eagerly await future sets of figures from this imaginative company.

Highly Recommended.

Bronco kits are available online from Hannants www.hannants.co.uk

Al Bowie



CALLSIGN MODELS

1:35 SCALE
VIETNAM WAR CORRESPONDENT
ITEM NO. CS35005

Callsign Models is a new range of figures and accessories from Firestorm Models of Australia.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the first batch of figure releases covers Australian involvement in the Vietnam War. Along with a number of APC crew and soldiers, Callsign has also released a 1:35 scale Vietnam War Correspondent.

The figure is made up from five parts in medium grey coloured resin. Casting quality is perfect. There are a few black spots on my sample but these will be covered by primer and paint.

The body and legs are provided as one large casting. The drapes and folds of the journalist's Army issue Jungle Greens look great. Straps, a camera and a bag are also cast in place on the body. The two arms are joined by an SLR camera held in the figure's hands as a single sub-assembly.

The bare head is separate and is also nicely detailed. The canteen and telephoto lens for the second camera are provided as separate parts too.

A small instruction sheet is included, which provides tips for construction and painting. The instructions tell us that the fit between the arms and the shoulders will be tight, and that we should use hot water to soften the arms before assembly. I was also impressed to see that specific paint callouts from Vallejo's acrylic range are offered for the uniform base colour, highlights and shading colours.

The packaging is also worthy of mention. The front of the glossy box is good inspiration for painting, while the sides contain Vietnam protest posters. With a coat of flat varnish these might even be used in a diorama setting. The back of the box contains a reproduction of a 1965 Sydney newspaper front page.

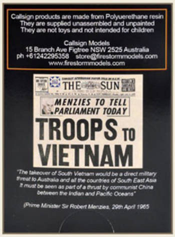
This will be a very versatile figure, not only as an Australian war correspondent in Vietnam but as a generic journalist suitable for many modern hotspots.

The Callsign Models series is a step up from Firestorm's previous releases in terms of sculpting, packaging and documentation. I look forward to seeing more of Callsign's new releases and future figures in the range.

Highly Recommended.

Callsign Models products are available online from Firestorm Models www.firestormmodels.com

Brett Green



Callsign products are made from Polyuerethane resin
They are supplied unassembled and unpainted
They are not toys and not intended for children

Callsign Models
15 Branch Ave Figtree NSW 2525 Australia
ph +61242295358 store@firestormmodels.com
www.firestormmodels.com

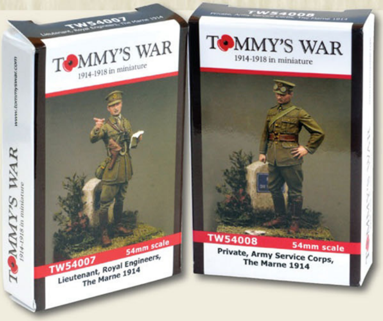
THE SUN

MENZIES TO TELL PARLIAMENT TODAY

TROOPS TO VIETNAM

"The takeover of South Vietnam would be a direct military threat to Australia and all the countries of South East Asia It must be seen as part of a thrust by communist China between the Indian and Pacific Oceans"

(Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies, 29th April 1965


TW54007
Lieutenant, Royal Engineers, The Marne 1914
TOMMY'S WAR
1914-1918 in miniature
www.tommyswar.com
TW54007
54mm scale
Lieutenant, Royal Engineers, The Marne 1914
TW54008
Private, Army Service Corps, The Marne 1914
TOMMY'S WAR
1914-1918 in miniature
TW54008
54mm scale
Private, Army Service Corps, The Marne 1914

TOMMY'S WAR

54MM (1:32 SCALE)
ITEM NO. TW54007
LIEUTENANT, ROYAL ENGINEERS, THE MARNE 1914
ITEM NO. TW54008
PRIVATE, ARMY SERVICE CORPS, THE MARNE 1914

Tommy's War is a range of 54mm World War One British figures.

The two newest releases are a Lieutenant, Royal Engineers and a Private, Army Service Corps, both serving at The Marne in 1914.

The Lieutenant is made up of five grey-green resin parts and is wearing a holstered pistol and binoculars. He is holding a wad of papers and pointing, as if giving orders.

The Private is broken down into only three parts – the main body casting, one separate arm and his head. He wears goggles and a soft bag with a wide strap over the shoulder.

The poses would work well together in a vignette or as standalone figures on a small base.

Casting quality is excellent, and the poses very natural.

The sculptor is Nino Pizzichemi, while the box art figures are beautifully painted by Gunther Sternberg. The glossy boxes are a quality touch, and the box art provides real inspiration.

A rear view of the painted figures is offered on the back of the box.

These figures will be complimented by a detailed resin and photo-etched 1914 pattern Douglas motorcycle, which should be available by the time you read this review.

Tommy's War figures and accessories are 54mm, which is actually 1:32 scale and noticeably larger than 1:35. This represents a nice larger canvas for painting and display.

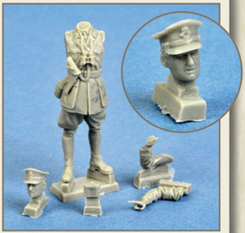
This is the first time that I have seen Tommy's War figures close up, and I am suitably impressed. They will be welcomed by figure modellers in general, and fans of Great War modelling in particular.

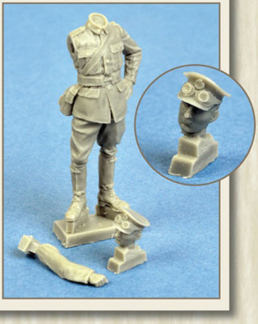
Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Tommy's War for the samples

www.tommyswar.com

Brett Green





SO TELL ME AGAIN, WHY DO YOU MAKE MODEL TANKS?

Recently I attended a dinner party. For those of you unaccustomed to this rather western preoccupation, it entails mostly middle aged married couples going to someone's place on the pretext of catching up. The reality is rather different. Generally, the guys just swap war stories and get drunk and the women, well, they do what women do!

At this particular event I was asked if I still make "those little toy tanks". Now, in an alternative universe I would have A; launched at the individual from across the table while grabbing their neck or B; Come up with a scathing retort to totally destroy their self worth or C; use a combination of both and be cheered on by all and sundry.

My answer however was a rather sheepish "Yeah, still do it, how's the shoe collection coming along?" I have discussed this before, but how are we modellers viewed by others? I still get the comment "Yeah, I used to like making those as a kid". What's that supposed to mean, dude? Modelling is for kids? So what you're really saying is I haven't grown up? Or have somehow lost my ability to do "normal things"? Give me a break!

Modelling tanks in particular seems to generate this sort of attention. Aircraft, train and car modellers for example are viewed a little differently; they are frustrated pilots, train drivers and race drivers with no money for the real thing. Make model tanks and figures however and you may just be branded a warmonger! Who plays with toy soldiers anyway, only kids, right? Funny isn't it?

In the end, though, our hobby combines an interest in history, together with physical dexterity, the opportunity to learn new skills and to have a tangible result at the end of every modelling project. That can't be a bad thing, can it?

On a different note we have moved our interview this month into a different section of the magazine as the subject will appeal not only to 1:48 scale scale modellers but also to anyone with an interest in box top illustration. I hold Ron Volstad in high regard and his interview is an interesting one.

Until next time Luke Pitt

VERLINDEN

1:48 SCALE

PANTHER TURRET PILLBOX (FOR TAMIYA PANTHER)

ITEM NO. 2345

This kit depicts a Pantherstellung armoured pillbox as used by the Germans during WWII.

This set is made up from eleven parts cast in grey green resin. There are no instructions included, but assembly shouldn't be too difficult to figure out by studying the photos of the completed example on the box top. The kit essentially consists of six flat panels to form the top, bottom, and four sides of the armoured 'box', with the remaining parts consisting of the pillbox door and four lifting hooks. The Panther tank turret is not included, but the Verlinden kit is designed to be used alongside a turret sourced from the Tamiya Panther Ausf.G kit.

The casting of the parts is very crisp with no bubbles, but all of the large parts in my kit were warped. The resin panels are quite thick but I'm sure that a dip in hot water will straighten out the offending parts. The panels are cast with varying thicknesses of excess resin on the backside, which will need to be sanded away to ensure that the kit goes together properly. However, considering that three of the six pillbox sides are basically flat panels devoid of detail, I'm thinking that it may be easier to replace some of the kit parts with plastic card to avoid the need to fix the warpage and clean up of the parts.

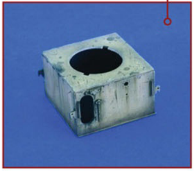
In case you're wondering, all of the required parts to form a complete Panther turret (aside from the 3 lifting hooks and 2 'poly caps') can be found on the 'A' sprue from the Tamiya Panther Ausf G kit. So you can probably get away with ordering just the one sprue to complete the Verlinden Panther pillbox setup.

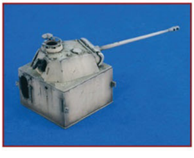
Based on my own research, I'm not entirely convinced by the accuracy of the Verlinden Pillbox kit, but I still think that it will make for a fun little project in its own right.

Recommended (if you're really eager for a Panther Pillbox)

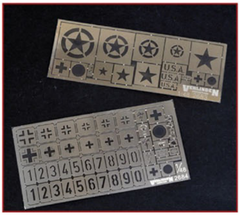
Thanks to Verlinden for the sample www.verlindenonline.com

Alex Dutt





VERLINDEN
2683
1:48 Scale



VERLINDEN

1:48 SCALE

US WWII TEMPLATE PHOTO ETCHED STENCILS. ITEM NO. 2683

GERMAN WWII TEMPLATE PHOTO ETCHED STENCILS. ITEM NO. 2684

These two photo-etched stencil sets are made from thin stainless steel and are very high quality.

The US set included four common sizes of stars, both with and without the segmented circles used in the ETO, as well as two sizes of Red Cross insignia and five sizes of "U.S.A." but, strangely, no sets of numbers, letters or symbols to make bumper codes or registration numbers. The stars will work for almost all applications on US and Commonwealth vehicles.

The German set has two-part stencils for four sizes of crosses, so you can either paint white outline crosses or full black and white ones.

One size and style of turret numbers are done the same way, so that you can do either single-colour or two-colour numbers. A number of other insignia are also included, with two styles of Red Cross, three variations of the Afrika Korps insignia and various victory marks and other small insignia. While the other insignia appear in scale, the Afrika Korps symbols are quite large – the same as 1:35 versions in my collection – and appear much too big for models like the AFV Club Sd.Kfz. 251.

Overall, these are good sets, but the lack of stencils for bumper codes and registration numbers in the US set means that some sort of decals will still have to be used to complete most vehicles and the oversized Afrika Korps insignia are problematic.

Recommended.

Thanks to Verlinden for the sample www.verlindenonline.com

Scott Taylor

Luke Pitt hosts MMI's examination of the growing world of 1:48 scale military models, figures and accessories.

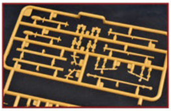
T17E1 Staghound Mk.I/Canadian 60lb Rocket Launch Version
2 Options In One Kit
BRONCO
Bronco Models
1/48 SCALE
ZB 48003

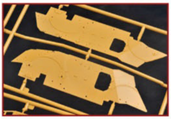
BRONCO MODELS

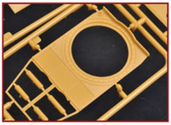
1:48 SCALE

T17E1 STAGHOUND MK1 / CANADIAN 60 LB ROCKET LAUNCH VERSION

KIT NO. ZB48003







Bronco has saved the best until last. This new version of the Staghound will undoubtedly be the most popular of the trio of kits now produced by them. Bronco's 1:48 scale T17E1 Staghound Mk1 / Canadian 60 lb Rocket Launch Version is moulded over eleven sand coloured sprues that amount to well over 120 finely detailed parts. A clear sprue is also included, as is a small photo etched fret together with a small length of tow rope. Two marking choices are provided, both in overall Olive Drab. A first class instruction sheet is included which is both clear and precise.

The level of detail on this kit rivals anything in 1:35 scale. It is, in my opinion, a study on how to do a 1:48 scale plastic military kit correctly. I have heard on various on line forums that the parts count is too high for such a small kit and to be frank, but I think that this is nonsense. This kit is an absolute gem and may well be one of the best plastic 1:48 scale kits that I have had the pleasure to review thus far. The kit is both accurate and very well thought out. New to this release is sprue "E" which includes the new turret and an addition to sprue "D" that now includes the rockets and rails for the 60lb rocket version of this kit.

I recommend that you buy this kit and experience how good a 1:48 scale can be.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Bronco Models for the review sample www.bronco-model.com

Luke Pitt

WESPE MODELS
1:48
CODE: WES 48122
DIAMOND T980

WESPE MODELS
1:48
CODE: WES 48123
TRAILER M9, 45Ton

WESPE MODELS

1:48 SCALE

DIAMOND T980 - ITEM NO. WES 48122

TRAILER M9 45 TON – ITEM NO. WES 48123

The Diamond T 980 Prime Mover and the Rogers Trailer was arguably the iconic tank transporter combination of the Second World War, used both by American and British forces in all theatres.

Now Wespe Models of Romania has produced two separate kits that will allow modellers to depict this famous duo in 1:48 scale.

Both kits are cast in cream coloured resin. The presentation of the parts is quite unique. They are vacuum packed under clear plastic, and overlaid of a parts numbering plan.

Casting is of good quality and the parts are free from any serious imperfections. Some care and time spent on cleanup of the parts will be a good investment though, as there is some fine resin waste on a number of the parts.

The Diamond T prime mover comprises just 35 parts, including basic detail inside the cab, and a winch in the ballast tray. Headlights are solid and there are no clear parts supplied for windows, so a little extra effort will yield the best possible result. A small instruction sheet describes construction clearly, and assembly should be fast and easy considering the small parts count.

The M9 trailer, with a load limit of 45 tons, is made up from only 30 parts, almost half of which are wheels. Four chocks are included in this total too. With no clear parts or interior to worry about, the trailer will be even easier to assemble than the prime mover.

Decals are not supplied with either kit.

These two kits could be purchased and used separately, but their greatest appeal will be when they are displayed as a combination. The potential for dioramas is intriguing, either transporting a 1:48 scale tank or perhaps retrieving a German aircraft as a war prize.

These are very welcome additions to the world of 1:48 scale modelling.

Recommended.

Thanks to Wespe Models for the samples www.wespemodels.ro

Brett Green

48th 1:48 Scale – A round-up of the latest news and releases

HAULER MODEL ACCESSORIES

1:48 SCALE
REFUELLER BZ-42 PHOTO ETCHED DETAIL SET FOR UM-KIT 508
SET NO. HLX 48317

This small but useful set for UM's 1:48 GAZ-MM-based refuelling truck consists of a variety of parts to detail the interior and exterior of the model. The centrepiece is a very fine replacement multi piece radiator, with an etch and acetate instrument panel, foot pedals, mirrors, wipers, front bumper and a variety of pieces for the fuel tank also included.
Highly recommended as a way to dress up the UM kit.
Thanks to Hauler for the samples www.hauler.cz
Scott Taylor

1/48
HLX48319 Staghound Mk.III (for BRONCO)
Hauler
model accessories
1/48
HLX48318 PGM-1 (gaz AA) fire engine (for UM kit)
Hauler
model accessori
1/48
HLF48020 Soviet thermos cans
model accessories
Hauler

ADM MODELS

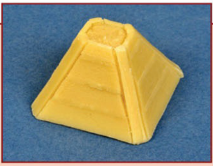
- **PLASTER/BRICK WALL (CONTAINS 3) (CODE PBW)**
- **CAST CONCRETE (BUNKER SIDE) (CONTAINS 3) (CODE CCL)**
- **RENDERED WALL RURAL/URBAN (CONTAINS 3) (CODE PW)**
- **RURAL STONEWALL (CONTAINS 3) (CODE RSW)**
- **CAST CONCRETE – BUNKER SIDE, TRENCH SIDE, EMPLACEMENT SIDE (CONTAINS 4) (CODE CCS)**
- **TANK OBSTACLES (DRAGONS TEETH) (CONTAINS 6) (CODE TODT)**
- **BETONFUNDAMENT CONCRETE GUN MOUNT (EMPLACEMENT) (CONTAINS 1) (#BFCC)**
- **PANZERSPERREN GERMAN LOG ROAD BLOCK (CONTAINS 1)**
- **CAFÉ SUR LE MUR BAR TABAC (PARTS FOR 1 BUILDING)**
- **URBAN INDUSTRIAL BUILDING (PARTS FOR 1 BUILDING)**

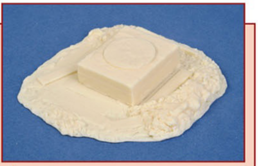
adM Models is a newcomer to the 1:48 scene, providing a range of simple diorama accessories. The casting on all of these items is very nice, with very fine texturing and only a few small pinholes present on some of the pieces. It is worth noting that the parts are only 'finished' on three sides – open-topped moulds appear to have been used, so the bottoms/insides are smooth with slightly raised edges where the resin meets the outside of the mould. For the buildings, this means that you are on your own providing an interior. This also means that some work is needed to smooth the mating surfaces of the parts for assembly of the buildings.

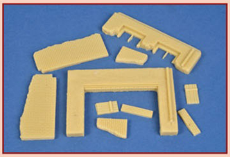
The wall segments would be useful for building your own simple structures or providing a flat background for a simple base; the rural stone wall could also be modified for use as cobblestone. The concrete gun mount is of the style seen for fixed 88mm Flak emplacements, so would be an interesting conversion for the Italeri 88mm Flak. The Dragon's Teeth are a common style with nicely rendered concrete texture, and would be nice for an Atlantic Wall or Siegfried Line setting, while the Panzersperren is a four-piece wooden roadblock of the type often seen in German towns during the last months of the war. It would be a natural with a Sherman Jagdpanther or other late-war vehicle.

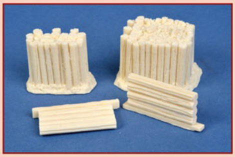
The buildings are a little more complicated, and represent the fronts and a bit of the sides of heavily damaged two-storey structures. As well as walls, there are various small parts like window and door frames and shutters. The instructions are simple (a picture of the completed model and written assembly instructions), but they get the point across.

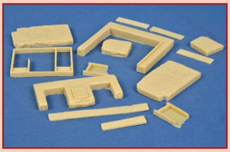
Overall, these are highly recommended pieces that will help to dress up the base of your next 1:48 military vehicle model, and I look forward to seeing what else adM has up its sleeve.
Highly Recommended.
Thanks to adM Models for the samples
admmodels.wordpress.com
Scott Taylor

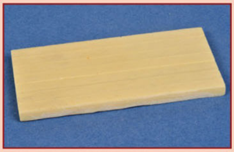


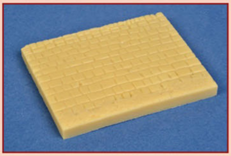


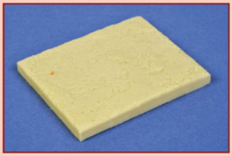












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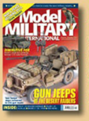
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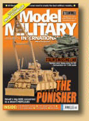
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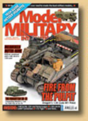
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Next Issue
On sale 3rd May 2012

DIMINUTIVE DIGICAM

Wayne Bowman kitbashes the old 1:72 scale ESCI M901, and the newer Trumpeter M113 ACAV

BA-64 BOBIK

Vulcan Models' 1:35 scale BA-64 by Federico Collada

MID-SIZE MARDER

Joaquin Garcia Gazquez builds Tamiya's 1:48 scale Marder III Ausf. M

BELTRING PANZERS

Zack Sex offers photo coverage of the Panzers at 2011's War and Peace Show

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

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Group Editor;	Marcus Nicholls
Publisher;	Alan Harman
Graphic Design;	Alex Hall
Advertising Manager;	Colin Spinner
Advertising Sales;	Mark Peacock
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Editorial enquiries;
Email; editor@modelmilitary.com

Advertising enquiries;
Tel; +44 (0)1525 222573
Email; colin@adhpublishing.com

Subscription enquiries;
Tel; +44 (0)1525 222573
Fax; +44 (0)1525 222574
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- STOP PRESS -

TAMIYA'S NEW 1:35 T-55 ENIGMA

The Editor takes a look at an early example of Tamiya's new 1:35 scale Iraqi uparmoured T-55 Enigma.

TAMIYA
IRAQI TANK
T-55 "ENIGMA"
1:35 MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES NO.324
イラク軍戦車 T-55エニグマ

From 1941, onward, the backbone of the Soviet Union's armoured force was the T-34. Although the powerful IS-2 and IS-3 were also developed during the Great Patriotic War, a strong focus was kept on the mass production of the effective, but by no means perfect, T-34.

By 1943, Soviet tanks found themselves pitted against daunting German super-Panzers and tank destroyers including Tigers and Panthers. It was clear that future enemies would also field such dangerous adversaries, so work began on a new Soviet tank design that was up to the challenge.

The prototype for the new T-54 tank was produced just before the end of the war in February 1945. This was an all-new design featuring a low silhouette and rounded turret, with five large road wheels on each side, powered by a 12 cylinder diesel engine and armed with the 100 mm D-10T cannon.

The T-55 was initially developed as a response to the need for nuclear, biological, and chemical protection of the vehicle and its crew. The T-55 received the new V-55 12-cylinder 4-stroke one-chamber 38.88 litre water-cooled diesel engine, improved armour and increased ammunition stowage.

The T-54 and T-55 are simple tanks that are relatively inexpensive to maintain and easy to crew. These attributes have made the T-54/55 very popular as an export type to Warsaw Pact, Middle Eastern and developing nations.

Over a period of six decades, the T-54/55 has been subject to many upgrades and modifications, and holds the distinction of being the most numerous tank in history. Production is estimated to be between 86,000 and 100,000.

Iraq took delivery of thousands of T-54s and T-55s from 1958 until 1985. These were used comprehensively in the Iran Iraq wars, against Coalition forces in the 1991 Gulf War and again in 2002's Operation Iraqi Freedom. Around 1,500 T-54s, T-55s and TR-580s were in service with the Iraqi Regular Army in 1990, with 500 remaining in 2002.

The T-55 "Enigma" was an Iraqi attempt to upgrade the armour of the ageing T-55 during the 1980s. The Iraqi designation of this unique type is unknown – the name "Enigma" was bestowed on the vehicle by Coalition forces during the 1991 Gulf War.

The Enigma appears to have been used as a Command vehicle in regular T-55 units. The type saw combat against Coalition forces in 1991, although the additional armour did little to protect it from heavy losses.

Tamiya's 1:35 scale T-55 kit was released in 2002 and became an instant classic thanks to its high level of detail, accuracy and ease of assembly. It is still easily the best T-55 kit available in 2012.

Ten years later, Tamiya has taken advantage of this excellent base kit to deliver a T-55 Enigma.

Although the running gear, lower hull and some of the detail parts are from the original boxing, much of this kit is new or modified.

Now moulded in dark yellow, Tamiya's 1:35 scale T-55 Enigma comprises approximately 382 plastic parts, four large polythene caps, ten small polythene caps, I small sheet of vinyl mesh and two full-length flexible vinyl tracks. Two of the sprues and the upper hull are brand new, while the turret has also been modified to accommodate the armour segments and other fittings.

All the parts, whether from 2002 or 2012, are moulded to the same outstanding level of quality.

The suspension features separate swing arms, so the wheels may be posed on uneven terrain if the modeller wishes. The road wheels, idler wheels and drive sprockets are held in place with polythene caps. I was a little surprised that Tamiya did not take the opportunity to offer a set of link and length tracks with this new kit, but there are plenty of options available for replacements - Friulmodel and Modelkasten being the best - if you don't like the flexible vinyl tracks.

Vinyl mesh is supplied for the grilles on the engine deck, and the large external fuel drums on the back of the vehicle are included in this kit too.

The gun barrel is broken down into left and right halves with an end piece. If you don't want to deal with a centreline seam, you might consider replacing this with any number of aftermarket turned metal T-55 barrels.

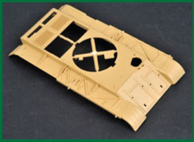
An Iraqi tanker figure is included, so you will be able to practice your moustache painting skills too.

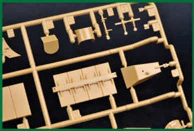
There are no decals in the kit.

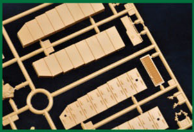
Tamiya's T-55 Enigma is a logical development of their excellent T-55 kit, and should prove to be just as enjoyable to build as its predecessor.

I can't wait to get started on mine! ■

Thanks to Tamiya for the sample www.tamiya.com
Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net







1:35 '39-'45 SERIES

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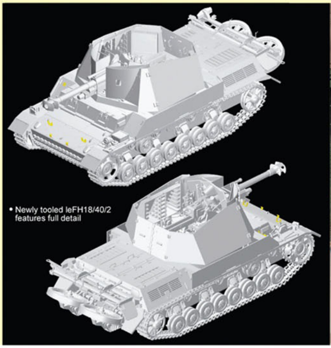
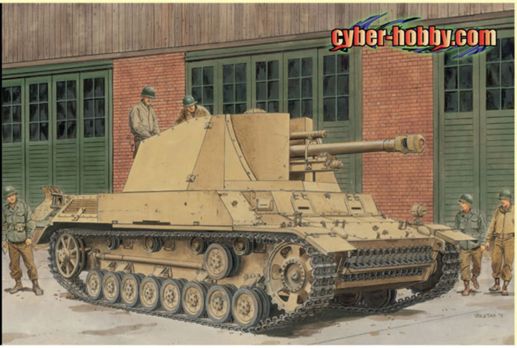
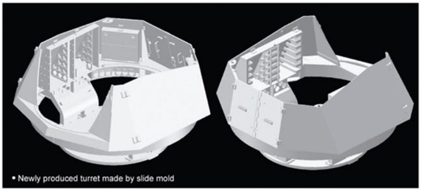
Smart Kit

Engineered for modeling enjoyment **Plastic parts with enhanced detail** **Unprecedented value** **Ready for immediate assembly!**

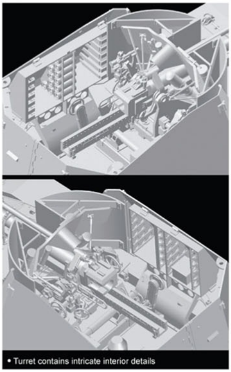


- Newly tooled leFH18/40/2 features full detail

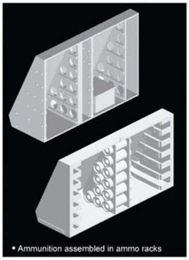




- Newly produced turret made by slide mold



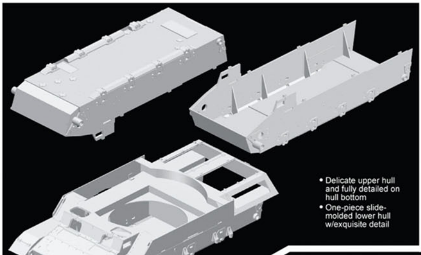
- Turret contains intricate interior details



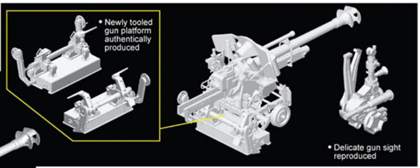
- Ammunition assembled in ammo racks

- Stowage locker included in turret

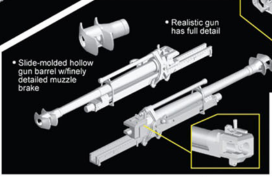
- Armored shield mounted on turret



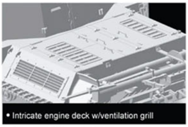
- Delicate upper hull and fully detailed on hull bottom
- One-piece slide-molded lower hull w/exquisite detail



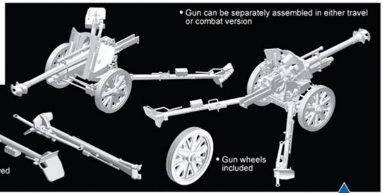
- Newly tooled gun platform authentically produced
- Delicate gun sight reproduced



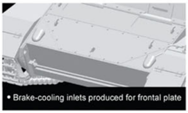
- Realistic gun has full detail
- Slide-molded hollow gun barrel w/finely detailed muzzle brake



- Intricate engine deck w/ventilation grill



- Gun can be separately assembled in either travel or combat version
- Gun trails stowed on hull rear
- Gun wheels included



- Brake-cooling inlets produced for frontal plate

Magic Track
PATENT REGISTERED

- Magic Tracks reproduced

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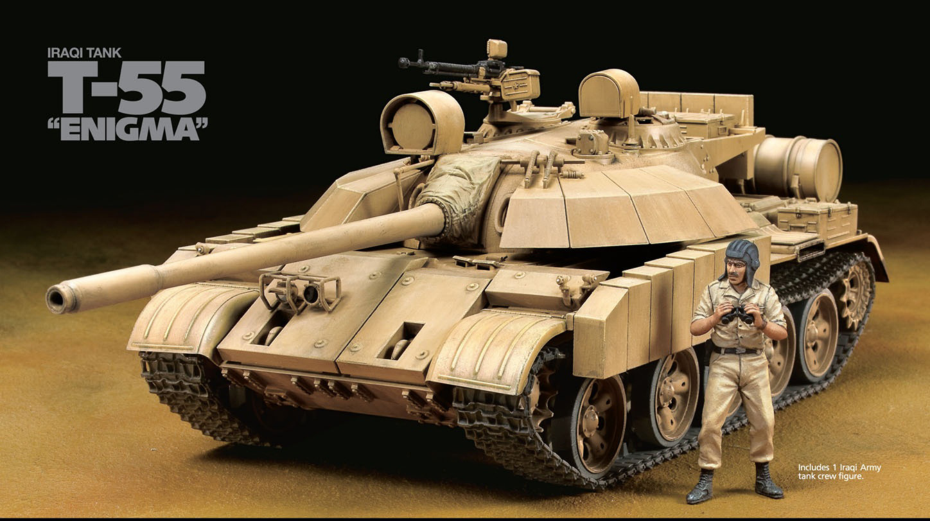
IRAQI TANK

T-55 "ENIGMA"

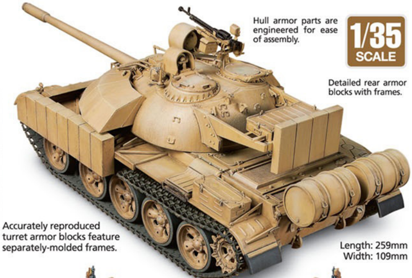

Includes 1 Iraqi Army tank crew figure.

UNCOVER THE MYSTERY

1/35 Scale Iraqi Tank T-55 "Enigma" Item 35324

The newest addition to Tamiya's 1/35 Scale Military Miniature Series is the T-55 "Enigma," which was developed by the Iraqi Army and used during the 1991 Gulf War. The tank's impressive form, with its additional turret and hull armor blocks, invokes the image of a heavily armored knight and easily distinguishes it from the normal T-55 on which it is based. Initially shrouded in mystery, Coalition forces thereby gave the tank its unofficial designation of "Enigma." Several examples were captured during the conflict and were sent to various coalition countries for evaluation. Modelers can also delve into this mystery with the first ever injection-molded kit of this unique tank.

Accurately reproduced turret armor blocks feature separately-molded frames.

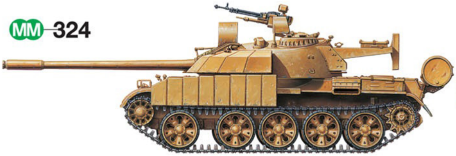

Hull armor parts are engineered for ease of assembly.

1/35 SCALE

Detailed rear armor blocks with frames.

Length: 259mm
Width: 109mm

MM-324



Belt-type tracks included.

Gulf War Combatants

The 1/35 Scale MM Series also includes Coalition tanks as well as the T-55 on which the "Enigma" was based. Line them up to create an impressive display or diorama.

○Images show assembled and painted model kit.
○Product may vary from images shown.

1/35 British Main Battle Tank Challenger 1 (Mk.3) Item 35154

1/35 U.S. M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank Item 35156

1/35 Russian T-55A Main Battle Tank Item 35257

TAMIYA

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